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Address to:

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney's Docket No. SONY-U0150

First Named Inventor MOTOKI KATO

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

SIR:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application entitled:

TRANSPORT STREAM RECORDING APPARATUS AND METHOD, TRANSPORT STREAM
REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.10

I hereby certify that this New Application and the documents referred to as enclosed herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date September 22, 2000, in an envelope bearing "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL254113394US addressed to: Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Elizabeth Reicker

(Name of person mailing paper)

Elizabeth Reicker
(Signature)

Enclosed are:

1. ☒ Transmittal Form (two copies required)
2. The papers required for filing date under CFR § 1.53(b):
 - i. 69 Pages of specification (including claims and abstract);
 - ii. 25 Sheets of drawings.
 ___ formal ☒ informal
3. Declaration or oath
 - a. ☒ Unsigned (Combined with Power of Attorney)

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

4. ___ An assignment of the invention to Sony Corporation is attached (including Form PTO-1595).
 - i. ___ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)
5. ☒ Power of Attorney (Unsigned - Combined with Declaration)
6. ___ An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is enclosed, including a PTO-1449 and copies of ___ references.
7. ___ Preliminary Amendment.
8. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503 -- should be specifically itemized)
9. FOREIGN PRIORITY
 - [x] Priority of application no. P11-275837 filed on September 29, 1999 in Japan is claimed under 35 USC 119.

The certified copy of the priority application:

- ☒ is filed herewith; or
___ has been filed in prior application no. ___ filed on __, or
___ will be provided.

___ English Translation Document (if applicable)

10. FEE CALCULATION

- a. ☐ Amendment changing number of claims or deleting multiple dependencies is enclosed.

CLAIMS AS FILED

	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	Basic Fee (\$690)
Total Claims	56 - 20	* 36	x \$18.00	648.00
Independent Claims	13 - 3	* 10	x \$78.00	780.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple dependent claim(s), if any			\$260.00	0

*If less than zero, enter "0".

Filing Fee Calculation \$2,118.00

50% Filing Fee Reduction (if applicable) \$

11. Small Entity Status

- a. ☐ A small entity statement is enclosed.
b. ☐ A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
c. ☐ is no longer claimed.

12. Other Fees

- ☐ Recording Assignment [\$40.00] \$0
☐ Other fees
Specify _____ \$0

Total Fees Enclosed \$2,118.00

13. Payment of Fees

- ☒ Check(s) in the amount of \$ 2,118.00 enclosed.
☐ Charge Account No. 12-1420 in the amount of \$____.
A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

14. All correspondence regarding this application should be forwarded to the undersigned attorney:

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Telephone: 415/433-4150
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15. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication and which may be required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Account No. 12-1420. **A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.**

LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

September 22, 2000
(Date)

Attorney Docket No. SONY-U0150
[S00P1150US00]

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TRANSPORT STREAM RECORDING APPARATUS AND METHOD,
TRANSPORT STREAM REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention generally relates to a transport stream recording apparatus and a transport stream recording method, a transport stream reproducing apparatus and a transport stream reproducing method, and a program recording medium. For example, the present invention relates to a transport stream recording apparatus and a transport stream recording method, a transport stream reproducing apparatus and a transport stream reproducing method, and a program recording medium which are suitably for use in recording an MPEG video stream for example onto a data recording medium so that the recorded video stream can be reproduced in random access manner and in reproducing the MPEG video stream.

MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) 2 transport streams are used in the satellite digital broadcast and terrestrial digital broadcast in Japan, Europe, and the US. Namely, transport streams as digital broadcast waves are multiplexed in a time division manner with packetized MPEG video and audio streams corresponding to the video

and audio signals of broadcast programs.

If these transport streams can be recorded in the form of digital signals on the side of receivers, users can repeatedly view programs without degradation in picture and sound qualities.

Further, recording transport streams onto random-accessible recording medium such as a hard disc and an optical disc can realize random access reproduction in which broadcast programs can be reproduced from any point of time specified by user.

In an MPEG video stream, I picture, B picture, and P picture are arranged appropriately. The decoding of B picture and P picture uses the image data decoded in the past, so that only I picture can become the reproduction start position of these three types of pictures. Therefore, when random access reproduction is executed from a user-specified reproduction start position, the I picture which is nearest the specified reproduction start position is searched and the reproduction is started with that I picture.

However, to search for the I picture nearest the specified reproduction start position from a recorded transport stream, MPEG video packets must be extracted from the transport stream to analyze the header and

payload of each MPEG packet. These extraction and analysis take time, thereby presenting a problem that prompt random access reproduction in response to user specification cannot be realized.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to realize prompt random access reproduction in response to user commands by detecting I picture in a transport stream to be recorded and by recording on a data recording medium information for identifying a packet in which data of the I picture are stored along with discontinuity information as a database of transport stream.

In carrying out the invention and according to a first aspect thereof, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus for recording a transport stream on a recording medium, including a detector for detecting, from a transport packet constituting the transport stream, a discontinuity point in the transport stream, a discontinuity point information generator for generating discontinuity point information in accordance with the discontinuity point, and a recording unit for recording the transport packet onto the recording medium

along with the discontinuity point information.

According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus, wherein the detector including a first extracting block for extracting reference time information located in the transport stream, a time information generator for generating system time information on the basis of the reference time information, and a time discontinuity detector for detecting occurrence of discontinuity in the reference time information.

According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus, wherein the discontinuity point information generator generates, as the discontinuity information, time axis identification information for identifying a time axis and positional information corresponding to a start time of the time axis.

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus, wherein the discontinuity point information generator generates, as the time axis identification information, the system time information corresponding to a start time of the time axis and the system time information corresponding to an end time of the time axis.

According to a fifth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus, wherein the discontinuity point information generator generates, as the time axis identification information, the system time information corresponding to a display start time on the time axis and the system time information corresponding to a display end time on the time axis.

According to a sixth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus, wherein the detector including a second extracting block for extracting, on the basis of program information arranged in the transport stream, a point at which program content changes.

According to a seventh aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording apparatus further including a first analyzer for extracting, from the transport packets, a transport packet including data that may provide a reproduction start position, and an entry point map generator for generating an entry point map for identifying the transport packet including the data, wherein the recording unit records, along with the discontinuity point information, the entry point map on the recording medium as the database corresponding to the

the mark point and time axis identification information for identifying a time axis to which the time information belongs.

According to a tenth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream recording method for recording a transport stream on a recording medium, including the steps of detecting, from a transport packet constituting the transport stream, a discontinuity point in the transport stream, generating discontinuity point information in accordance with the discontinuity point, and recording the transport packet onto the recording medium along with the discontinuity point information.

According to an eleventh aspect of the invention, there is provided a program recording medium recording a computer-readable program for recording an inputted transport stream on a data recording medium, the program including the steps of detecting, from a transport packet constituting the transport stream, a discontinuity point in the transport stream, generating discontinuity point information in accordance with the discontinuity point, and recording the transport packet onto the recording medium along with the discontinuity point information.

According to a twelfth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream reproducing

apparatus for reproducing a transport stream recorded on a recording medium, including a reproducing unit for reproducing the transport stream from the recording medium, a reproduction controller for executing control such that time axis identification information of the transport stream and an entry point map are reproduced from the recording medium, and a controller for searching the time axis identification information and the entry point map for a reproduction start position, wherein the reproduction controller controls the reproducing unit such that the recording medium is read in accordance with the reproduction start position.

According to a thirteenth aspect of the invention, there is provided a transport stream reproducing method for reproducing a transport stream from a recording medium, including the steps of reproducing time axis identification information of the transport stream and an entry point map from the recording medium, searching the time axis identification information and the entry point map for a reproduction start position; and reading the recording medium in accordance with the reproduction start position.

According to a fourteenth aspect of the invention, there is provided a program recording medium recording a

computer-readable program for reproducing a transport stream from a recording medium, the program including the steps of reproducing time axis identification information of the transport stream and an entry point map from the recording medium, searching the time axis identification information and the entry point map for a reproduction start position, and reading the recording medium in accordance with the reproduction start position.

In the transport stream recording apparatus and method and in the program recorded on the first program recording medium according to the invention, the transport packet is analyzed for detection of a discontinuity point in coding information and, in accordance with the analysis result, discontinuity point information in the case where discontinuity occurred is created. In addition, transport packet data are recorded on a data recording medium and the discontinuity point information is recorded on the data recording medium as a database corresponding to the transport stream.

In the transport stream recording apparatus and method and in the program recorded on the second program recording medium according to the invention, the database corresponding to a transport stream is obtained from a data recording medium. In addition, a specified

reproduction start position is compared with information contained in the database corresponding to the transport stream to find a reproduction start permitting position. By use of the information contained in the database, an address on the data recording medium on which the transport packet corresponding to the reproduction start permitting position is computed. The reading of the transport packet starts from the computed address on the data recording medium.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and other objects of the invention will be seen by reference to the description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a recording apparatus practiced as one embodiment of the invention;

FIGS. 2A, 2B, and 2C illustrate a DVR transport packet to be recorded on a data recording medium;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a PLL block shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a flowchart describing transport stream recording processing by a recording apparatus;

FIG. 5 is a flowchart describing a process in which

an arrival time stamp is generated;

FIG. 6 is a flowchart describing stream database recording processing by the recording apparatus;

FIG. 7 is a flowchart describing processing in step S21 shown in FIG. 6;

FIG. 8 is a diagram illustrating a relationship between STC discontinuity point and entry point;

FIG. 9 is a diagram illustrating STC discontinuity;

FIG. 10 is a diagram illustrating STC discontinuity;

FIG. 11 is a flowchart describing the processing for analyzing discontinuity in a program sequence;

FIG. 12 is a diagram illustrating one example of entry point map;

FIG. 13 is a diagram illustrating one example of STC time axis information;

FIG. 14 is a diagram illustrating a first example of STC discontinuity information syntax;

FIG. 15 is a diagram illustrating a second example of STC discontinuity information syntax;

FIG. 16 is a diagram illustrating a first example of program sequence syntax;

FIG. 17 is a diagram illustrating a second example of program sequence syntax;

FIG. 18 is a diagram illustrating program_sequence;

FIG. 19 is a diagram illustrating entry point map syntax;

FIG. 20 is a diagram illustrating mark syntax;

FIG. 21 is a diagram illustrating an example in which mark is indicated by STC_sequence_id and PTS values;

FIG. 22 is a diagram describing a relationship between EntryPointMap and STC_Info;

FIG. 23 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary configuration of a reproducing apparatus practiced as one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 24 is a flowchart describing reproduction processing by the reproducing apparatus;

FIGS. 25A, 25B, and 25C are diagrams describing a method of reproduction by use of mark point information;

FIG. 26 is a flowchart describing cued reproduction processing of a scene indicated by mark point information; and

FIG. 27 is a flowchart describing CM skipped reproduction processing by use of mark point information.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This invention will be described in further detail

by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Now, referring to FIG. 1, an exemplary configuration of a recording apparatus 10 to which the present invention is applied will be described. The recording apparatus 10 adds a transport packet extra header to a transport packet (an MPEG video packet or an MPEG audio packet for example) as shown in FIG. 2A multiplexed at irregular intervals on a transport stream inputted from a set top box for example, not shown, which receives digital broadcast waves, thereby generating a source packet as shown in FIG. 2B to generate DVR transport stream by removing the intervals of the source packet. The generated DVR transport stream is then recorded on a data recording medium 21. It should be noted that the lateral axes in FIGS. 2A and 2B represent time axes for the arrival time clock at which the transport packet arrives at the recording apparatus 10.

A stream analyzing block 11 searches the transport packets sequentially inputted from the set top box for example for a packet in which PCR (Program Clock Reference) is stored, extracts PCR, and outputs it to a PLL (Phase Locked Loop) block 12.

The packets in which PCR is stored (these packets

hereafter referred to as PCR packets) are arranged in a transport stream at intervals less than 100 milliseconds. PCR is information for aligning a system time clock (hereafter STC) that provides a reference clock for reproduction of data stored in each transport packet. PCR has a precision of 27 MHz. It should be noted that a difference between the values of the PCRs stored in one PCR packet and the following PCR packet is normally in proportion to the interval (less than 100 milliseconds) at which the PCR packets are arranged. However, for various reasons, the difference value between the PCRs stored in one PCR packet and the following PCR packet may be greater than the normal level. In such a case, the STC generated by the PLL block 12 (to be described later) becomes discontinuous, changing the STC time axis before and after the time at which the discontinuity occurs.

The stream analyzing block 11 also generates a discontinuity flag and outputs it to the PLL block 12 if STC discontinuity is found by the analysis of the header of each inputted transport packet; to be more specific, if a packet ID change in a PCR packet is detected, 1 is detected in "discontinuity_indicator" of the header of a transport packet, or if DIT (Discontinuity Information Table) is detected.

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Further, the stream analyzing block 11 imparts a serial packet number (packet identification information) to each serially inputted transport packet and, at the same time, analyzes the header and payload of each transport packet to generate entry point data, discontinuity point data, and mark point data, which are outputted to a stream database creating block 16.

The entry point data are information for identifying the packet in which I picture data that can provide a reproduction start position (an entry point). The discontinuity point data are information for indicating a packet at which STC discontinuity occurred. The mark point data are information for identifying a packet in which image data corresponding to scene change position, commercial start and end positions, and so on are stored.

The PLL block 12 aligns the system clock frequency of 27 MHz by use of a PCR inputted from the stream analyzing block 11 and outputs the aligned system clock frequency to an arrival time clock (ATC) counter 13. The PLL block 12 also generates an STC for counting up in synchronization with the system clock frequency with the PCR as an initial value and outputs a discontinuity occurrence flag to the stream analyzing block 11 if

discontinuity occurs in that STC or a discontinuity flag is inputted from the stream analyzing block 11.

FIG. 3 shows a detailed exemplary configuration of the PLL block 12. PCR inputted from the stream analyzing block 11 at an interval of less than 100 milliseconds is supplied to a comparator 31 and a system time clock counter 34. The comparator 31 generates a signal indicative of a differential value between the PCR value from the stream analyzing block 11 and the STC value from the STC counter 34 and outputs the generated signal to a lowpass filter (LPF) 32 and a controller 35. The lowpass filter 32 removes the high-frequency component of the differential signal from the comparator 31 and outputs the resultant signal to a voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) 33. The voltage-controlled oscillator 33 generates a system clock frequency of 27 MHz and output it to the STC counter 34 and an ATC counter 13 (FIG. 1) at the following stage so that the differential signal from the lowpass filter 32 becomes 0.

The STC counter 34 counts up the STC with the first inputted PCR being the initial value in synchronization with the system clock frequency (27 MHz) from the voltage-controlled oscillator 33 and outputs the resultant STC to the comparator 31. If the controller 35

determines the value of the differential signal from the comparator 31 is greater than a predetermined threshold, the controller 35 generates a discontinuity occurrence flag and outputs it to the stream analyzing block 11 if a discontinuity flag is inputted from the stream analyzing block 11 for example.

For example, if PCRs having values of certain intervals are sequentially inputted in the PLL block 12, the differential value from the comparator 31 becomes 0 and therefore no discontinuity occurrence flag is outputted from the controller 35. If a PCR having a value greatly different from the value of a previously inputted PCR is inputted, the differential value from the comparator 31 becomes a great value and it is determined in the controller 35 that the differential value is greater than the threshold, upon which a discontinuity occurrence flag is outputted. The PCR which is not continuous is used in the system clock counter 34 as the initial value of a new STC time axis.

Referring to FIG. 1 again, the ATC counter 13 counts up the arrival time clock (hereafter referred to as ATC) in synchronization with the system clock frequency inputted from the PLL block 12 and, at the same time, outputs an arrival time stamp (arrival_time_stamp)

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which is a sample value of ATC to a transport packet extra header (TP_extra_header) adding block 15. In addition, the ATC counter 13 outputs the ATC to the stream analyzing block 11. It should be noted that the ATC is initialized to 0 when the transport packet located at the beginning of the program is inputted in the recording apparatus 10.

The transport packet extra header adding block 15 adds a transport packet extra header (4 bytes) including the arrival time stamp inputted from the counter 13 when the packet is inputted to the transport packet (118 bytes) from the set top box to generate a source packet (192 bytes) and outputs it to a file system block 17.

The stream database creating block 16 creates an entry point map, system time clock time axis information, program sequence information, and mark point information (each to be described later) by use of the entry point data, discontinuity point data, and mark point data inputted from the stream analyzing block 11 and outputs the created information to the file system block 17 as a stream database. The stream database is information to be used for the random access reproduction of the transport stream recorded on the data recording medium 21.

The file system block 17 removes the intervals

between the source packets inputted from the transport packet extra header adding block 15 to generate a DVR transport stream as a file as shown in FIG. 2C. In addition, the file system block 17 creates a file of the stream database (entry point map, system time clock time axis information, program sequence information, and mark point information) inputted from the stream database creating block 16. Further, the file system block 17 outputs the created DVR transport stream and stream database file to an error correction block 18.

The error correction block 18 adds error correction information to the file inputted from the file system block 17 and outputs the resultant file to a modulator 19. The modulator 19 modulates the file from the error correction block 18 in a predetermined manner and outputs the modulated file to a writing block 20. The writing block 20 records the modulated DVR transport stream file to an address on the data recording medium 21 corresponding to the packet number of the transport packet in the file. In addition, the writing block 20 records the modulated stream database file to a predetermined position of the data recording medium 21. The data recording medium 21 is such a medium permitting random access as a hard disc or an optical disc for

example that can be attached to and detached from the recording apparatus 10.

The controller 22 controls a drive 23 to read a control program from a magnetic disc 24, an optical disc 25, a magneto-optical disc 26, or a semiconductor memory 27, thereby controlling the components of the recording apparatus 10 on the basis of this control program and commands inputted by the user.

The following describes the transport stream recording processing to be executed by the recording apparatus 10 with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 4. This transport stream recording processing starts when the user inputs a recording start command.

In step S1, the transport packet extra header adding block 15 adds a transport packet extra header including an arrival time stamp inputted from the ATC counter to a transport packet inputted from a set top box for example to generate a source packet and outputs it to the file system block 17.

The following describes the processing in which the arrival time stamp included in the transport packet extra header is generated with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 5.

In step S11, the stream analyzing block 11 detects

a PAT packet having PID of 0x0000 storing a PAT (Program Association Table) of the inputted transport stream to read the PAT, obtaining the PID of the packet (hereafter referred to as a PMT packet) storing a PMT (Program Map Table) described in the PAT. In step S12, the PMT packet is detected on the basis of the PID of the PMT packet obtained in step S11 to read the PMT, obtaining the PID of the packet (hereafter referred to as a PCR packet) storing the PCR described in the PMT. In step S13, the PCR is detected on the basis of the PID of the PCR packet obtained in step S12 to read the PCR. This PCR is supplied to the PLL block 12.

In step S14, the PLL block 12 aligns the system clock frequency by use of the PCR inputted from the stream analyzing block 11 and supplies the aligned frequency to the ATC counter 13. In step S15, the ATC counter 13 counts up the ATC in synchronization with the system clock frequency from the PLL 12 and, at the same time, outputs the its sampling value to the transport packet extra header adding block 15 as an arrival time stamp.

Referring to FIG. 4 again, the file system 17 removes the intervals between the source packets inputted from the transport packet extra header adding block 15,

creates a file of the resultant DVR transport stream file, and outputs this file to the error correction block 18. In step S3, the error correction block 18 adds error correction information to the DVR transport stream file from the file system block 17. The modulator 19 modulates the error-corrected file. The writing block 20 records the modulated file to an address on the data recording medium 21 corresponding to the packet number.

The following describes the stream database recording processing to be executed along with the above-mentioned transport stream recording processing, with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 6.

In step S21, the stream analyzing block 11 analyzes sequentially inputted transport streams to detect a packet in which I picture data of the MPEG2 systems standard are stored, obtaining, as entry point data, the packet number of this packet and the PTS (Presentation Time Stamp) of this I picture. It should be noted that PTS is information included in the header of a PES packet of the MPEG2 systems standard and indicates a time along the system time clock time axis on which this picture is reproduced.

The following describes specific processing of step S21 with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 7. In

step S31, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether a transport packet has been inputted or not and waits until the transport packet is inputted. If the transport packet is found inputted, the stream analyzing block 11 goes to step S32.

In step S32, the stream analyzing block 11 detects if 1 is written to a payload unit start indicator (payload_unit_start_indicator) included in the transport packet header of the transport packet, thereby determining whether the payload of the transport packet starts from first byte of the PES packet. If 1 is detected in the payload unit start indicator and the payload of the transport packet is found starting from the first byte of the PES packet, then the stream analyzing block 11 goes to step S33.

In step S33, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether 0x000001B3, the sequence header code (sequence_header_code) of MPEG video, is written to the beginning of the PES packet described in the payload of the transport packet. If the sequence header code of MPEG video is found written, the stream analyzing block 11 determines that the I picture data are stored in the payload of this transport packet and goes to step S34.

In step S34, the stream analyzing block 11

determines that this transport packet is an entry point, relates the packet number (by use of this packet number, the address on the data recording medium 21 at which this packet is recorded can be identified) of this transport packet to the PTS of the I picture stored in this transport packet, and outputs the resultant PTS and the identification information (video PID) of this program to the stream database creating block 16 as the entry point data.

For example, as shown in FIG. 8, if the I picture data are found stored in the packets of packet numbers E11, E12, E21, and E22, PTS = x11, x12, x21, and x22 are related to the packet numbers E11, E12, E21, and E22 respectively to be outputted to the stream database creating block 16.

In step S35, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether the inputting of transport packets has come to an end or not. If the inputting of transport packets is found not ended, then the stream analyzing block 11 returns to step S31 to repeat the above-mentioned processing. If the inputting of transport packets is found ended, the stream analyzing block 11 returns to step S22 shown in FIG. 6.

In step S22, the stream analyzing block 11 outputs

the discontinuity information about transport stream STC time axis and the discontinuity information about program sequence to the stream database creating block 16 as discontinuity point data. As for the discontinuity information about STC time axis, the stream analyzing block 11 outputs the information (STC time axis ID, PCR_PID, start_PCR_value, end_STC_value, and RSPN_STC_start) about the STC time axis changing before and after the inputting of a discontinuity point occurrence flag from the PLL block 12 to the stream database creating block 16 as the discontinuity point data. As for the discontinuity information about PSI/SI, the stream analyzing block 11 outputs the changing address of PSI/SI and the contents of new PSI/SI to the stream database creating block 16 as the discontinuity point data.

The following describes the discontinuity point data. STC time axis ID is information for identifying an STC time axis. A pair of start_PCR_value and end_STC_value indicate the start time and the end time of a continuous STC time axis respectively.

For the start_PCR_value, the value of the PCR that caused STC discontinuity is used. However, for the first start_PCR_value of the inputted transport stream, the

value of the PCR stored in the first PCR packet is used.

The end_STC_value is obtained from the following equation:

$$\text{end_STC_value} = \text{last_PCR} + \text{PCR_gap}$$

where, last_PCR is the value of the PCR packet immediately before the PCR packet that changed the STC time axis. PCR_gap is a time difference between the last_PCR and the occurrence of STC discontinuity. However, for the last end_STC_value of the inputted transport stream, the input time of the last transport packet is used.

For RSPN_STC_start, the packet number of a packet at which STC starts is used. To be more specific, the packet number of the PCR packet in which PCR providing start_PCR_value is used. Here, RSPN stands for Relative Packet Number, indicating a relative packet number which is counted with a packet number given to the head packet of the transport stream being an initial value. Alternatively, a packet number given at detection of STC discontinuity, a packet number given at detection of a change in the packet ID of a PCR packet, a packet number given at detection of 1 in discontinuity_indicator of the header of a transport packet, or a packet number given at detection of a DIT packet may be used for RSPN_STC_start.

To be more specific, as shown in FIG. 9, if STC discontinuity occurred once in a sequence of transport streams and the STC time axis from the beginning of the transport stream to the discontinuity occurrence point is STC1 and the STC time axis thereafter is STC2, then, for the start_PCR_value of the STC time axis STC1, start_PCR1 is used and, for the end_STC_value, the end_stc1 obtained by adding PCR_gap to the last_PCR is used. For the start_PCR_value of the STC time axis STC2, the start_PCR2 is used and, for the end_STC_value, the end_stc2 is used.

As seen from FIGS. 9 and 10, regardless of the STC discontinuity, the ATC to be generated by the ATC counter 13 is continuous regardless of the STC discontinuity. However, referring to FIG. 10, the lateral axis indicates ATC and the vertical axis indicates the STC, indicating a relationship between start_PCR_value and end_STC_value.

The following describes the processing for analyzing the discontinuity information about the program sequence with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 11.

In step S41, the stream analyzing block 11 waits until the transport packets of PSI/SI are inputted. When the transport packets of PSI/SI have been inputted, the stream analyzing block 11 goes to step S42.

To be specific, the transport packets of PSI/SI are

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packets of PAT, PMT, and SIT. SIT is a transport packet describing service information of a partial transport stream specified by the DVB standard.

In step S42, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether a change occurred in the contents of PSI/SI. Namely, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether the contents of each of PAT, PMT, and SIT differed from those inputted previously. If a change is found, the stream analyzing block goes to step S43. It should be noted that, in the first step S42 after the recording started, the stream analyzing block also goes to step S43 because there is no PSI/SI transport packet inputted before.

In step S43, the stream analyzing block acquires the packet number given to the transport packet for transporting new PSI/SI and the contents thereof and outputs the packet number and the contents to the stream database creating block 16. In step S44, the stream database creating block 16 creates the discontinuity information of the program sequence.

In step S45, the stream analyzing block 11 determines whether the inputting of the transport packets has been completed. If the inputting is found not completed, the stream analyzing block returns to step S41

to repeat the processing mentioned above. If the inputting is found completed in step S45, this processing comes to an end.

If no change is found in the contents of PSI/SI in step S42, then the stream analyzing block returns to step S41 to repeat the processing mentioned above.

Referring to FIG. 6 again, the stream analyzing block 11 analyzes the header and payload of each sequentially inputted transport packet in step S23 to detect a mark point (for example, scene change position, commercial start and end positions, and so on) and outputs the information for identifying the packets storing their image data (identification information (video PID) of this program, system time clock time axis ID, and PTS of this picture) to the stream database creating block 16 as the mark point data.

It should be noted that the processing operations from step S21 to step S23 were described in the order of time for the convenience of description. Actually, however, these processing operations are executed in parallel for each of the inputted transport packets.

In step S24, the stream database creating block 16 creates an entry point map as shown in FIG. 12 that describes the entry point data from the stream analyzing

block 11 for each program. It should be noted that the offset source packet number is a packet number assigned to the first packet of the transport stream.

The stream database creating block 16 also creates system time clock time axis information composed of system time clock time axis ID (STC_sequence_id), PCR_PID, start_PCR_value, end_STC_value, and RSPN_STC_start as shown in FIG. 13. RSPN_STC_start is a packet number which is counted with the above-mentioned offset source packet number being the initial value.

Moreover, the stream database creating block 16 creates mark point information describing the mark point data (video PID, system time clock time axis ID, and PTS of image) supplied from the stream analyzing block 11.

In addition, the stream database creating block 16 creates program sequence information which describes the discontinuity point data (details to be described) of the program sequence supplied from the stream analyzing block 11.

In step S25, the stream analyzing block 16 outputs the entry point map, the system time clock time axis information, and the mark point information created in step S24 to the file system block 17 as the stream database. The file system block 17 creates a file of the

inputted stream database. The stream database file is added with error correction information by the error correction block 18, the error-corrected stream database is modulated by the modulator 19, and the modulated stream database is recorded by the writing block 20 onto the data recording medium 21 at a predetermined position.

As described, the stream database recorded on the data recording medium 21 is used for the reproduction processing to be described later, especially for random access reproduction.

It should be noted that the entry point map of the stream database describes the packet number as the information for identifying the position of the entry point, thereby reducing the number of required bits as compared with the representation of the entry point position by an address of byte-precision.

Referring to FIG. 14, there is shown a first example of the an STC discontinuity information syntax.

STC_Info() denotes that this syntax provides STC discontinuity point information. STC_Info() has STC time axis information in the number indicated by num_of_STC_sequences. STC_sequence_id denotes STC time axis ID (refer to FIG. 13). Fields PCR_PID, RSPN_STC_start, start_PCR_value, and end_stc_value have

the same meanings as those of the corresponding variable names shown in FIG. 13.

Referring to FIG. 15, there is shown a second example of an STC discontinuity information syntax. STC_Info() has STC time axis information in the number indicated by num_of_STC_sequences. STC_sequence_id denotes STC time axis ID (refer to FIG. 13). Offset_STC_sequence_id is STC time axis ID given to head STC time axis of the transport stream. The fields of RSPN_STC_start have the same meanings as those of the corresponding variable names shown in FIG. 13.

This syntax uses start_PTS and end_PTS instead of start_PCR_value and end_STC_value used in the syntax shown in FIG. 14. start_PTS denotes the PTS of the first presentation unit on the STC time axis ID indicated by STC_sequence_id. end_PTS denotes the PTS of the last presentation unit on the STC time axis ID indicated by STC_sequence_id.

It should be noted that PCR_PID is omitted from the syntax shown in FIG. 15 by limiting the format to only one PCR_PID that is referenced by the transport stream to be recorded.

Referring to FIG. 16, there is shown a first example of a discontinuity information syntax of the

program sequence.

ProgramInfo() indicates that this syntax is program sequence discontinuity information. ProgramInfo() has PSI/SI information in the number indicated by number_of_PSI_SI change. PSI_SI_type indicates the type of following PSI/SI. It should be noted that PSI_SI_type=0 denotes PAT, PSI_SI_type=1 denotes PMT, and PSI_SI_type=2 denotes SIT. PSI_SI_type=3 to 255 denotes reserve.

If PSI_SI_type indicates PAT, a field of start_PAT_address follows. The start_PAT_address denotes an address on the DVR transport stream file of the transport packet in which new PAT is stored and is represented in packet number.

If PSI_SI_type indicates PMT, fields of video_PID equal to the number indicated in each of program_map_PID, start_PMT_address, program_number, PCR_PID, number_of_videos, number_of_audios, and number_of_videos and fields of audio_PID and AudioCodingInfo() equal to the number indicated by VideoCodingInfo() and number_of_audios follow.

program_map_PID is the packet ID of new PMT. The start_PMT_address is an address on the DVR transport stream file of the transport packet in which new PMT is

stored and is represented in packet number. The program_number is a program number written in the contents of new PMT. The PCR_PID is the packet ID of the transport packet for transporting the PCR written in the content of new PMT. The number_of_videos is the number of video streams written in the content of new PMT. The video_PID is the packet ID of the transport packet for transporting video streams.

VideoCodingInfo() denotes coding information of that video stream; for example, it includes information indicating whether video is SDTV or HDTV and information indicating video frame frequency and pixel aspect ratio. number_of_audios denotes the number of audio streams written in the contents of new PMT. audio_PID is the packet ID of a transport packet for transmitting the audio stream.

AudioCodingInfo() is coding information of that audio stream; for example, it includes information about audio coding method (MPEG1 audio, MPEG2AAC audio, or Dolby AC3 for example), component type (2-channel stereo or 5.1ch-multichannel stereo for example), and sampling frequency.

If PSI_SI_type indicates SIT, a field of start_SIT_address follows. The start_SIT_address is an

address on the DVR transport stream file of the transport packet in which new SIT is stored and is represented in packet number.

Referring to FIG. 17, there is shown a second example of ProgramInfo() syntax. This syntax can be used to limit the format only to one PCR_PID which is referenced by the transport stream to be recorded. In this format, a time interval having the following characteristics (1) through (3) in the transport stream is called program_sequence.

(1) PCR_PID value remains unchanged.

(2) The number of video elementary streams remains unchanged. And the PID value for each video stream and the coding information defined by VideoCodingInfo remains unchanged.

(3) The number of audio elementary streams remains unchanged. And the PID value for each audio stream and the coding information defined by AudioCodingInfo remains unchanged.

program_sequence has only one system time base at one time. In addition, program_sequence has only one PMT at one time. ProgramInfo() stores the address of a location at which program_sequence starts. RSPN_program_sequence_start indicates this address. Its

value may only indicate the source packet number of the boundary at which the above-defined program_sequence changes. For example, the above-mentioned start_PMT_address (the address of the transport packet in which new PMT is stored) may be set.

FIG. 18 shows an example of program_sequence. In this example, the contents of program_sequence change twice halfway in the transport stream, so that there are three program_sequences. The start source packet number (address) and the source packet numbers (addresses) at the change points of program_sequence are stored in RSPN_program_sequence_start.

Referring to FIG. 19, there is shown an example of entry point map syntax.

EntryPointMap() indicates that this syntax is for an entry point map. EntryPointMap() has the entry point information for each of video_PIDs in the number indicated by the number_of_video streams. The video_PID is the packet ID of the transport packet for transporting video streams. The number_of_entry_points indicates the number of entry points of this video stream. The PTS_EP_start and RSPN_EP_start have the same meanings as the PTS of the entry point and the address of the entry point respectively shown in FIG. 12.

Referring to FIG. 20, there is shown a mark syntax. ClipMark denotes that the syntax concerned is the syntax of mark. version_number represents four characters indicative of the version number of the ClipMark(). length is 32-bit unsigned integer indicative of the number of bytes of ClipMark() from immediately behind the length field to the last of ClipMark(). number_of_Clip_marks is a 16-bit unsigned integer indicative of the number of marks stored in ClipMark. number_of_Clip_marks may be zero. mark_type is an 8-bit field indicative of mark type, indicating a type such as CM start and end. mark_time_stamp having a 32-bit field stores a time stamp indicative of the point at which mark is specified. mark_time_stamp must indicate the high-order 32 bits of the 33-bit PTS corresponding to the presentation unit referenced by mark. STC_sequence having an 8-bit field indicates STC_sequence_id of the STC continuous interval in which mark is placed.

FIG. 21 shows an example in which marks such as the access point of the in-point or out-point for a recorded transport stream file (DVR transport stream file) and the start or end point of CM are represented in values of STC_sequence_id and PTS. The in-point and out-point are the start point and end point of reproduction

respectively.

Because the transport stream to be recorded may include an STC discontinuity point, PTSs having the same value may appear in that transport stream. Therefore, if the access point for the transport stream to be recorded is set on a PTS basis, the PTS value alone is not enough for identifying the access point. For the identification, the STC time axis ID in which the PTS is included is used together.

The following describes the relationship between EntryPointMap and STC_Info. EntryPointMap about the video stream to be referenced by one video_PID, which is the database attached to the file of the transport stream to be recorded is created in one table regardless of STC discontinuity point. Comparison between the value of RSPN_EP_start and the value of RSPN_STC_start defined in STC_Info() indicates the boundary of the data of EP_map belonging to each STC_sequence.

In an example shown in FIG. 22, address X21 of EntryPoint included in EntryPointMap is greater than RSPN_STC_start#2, which is the start address of the STC time axis indicated by STC_Info(). Entry point data before address X1n of EntryPoint belong to the STC time axis of STC_sequence#1. The entry point data after

address X21 belong to the STC time axis of STC_sequence#2.

FIG. 23 shows an exemplary configuration of a reproducing apparatus 40 for reproducing DVR transport streams from the data recording medium 21 on which DVR transport streams and stream database files are recorded by the recording apparatus 10.

The reproducing apparatus 40 also has a capability of adding user-specified mark points (the position of a scene that the user liked during viewing, the position at which viewing discontinued, and so on) to the mark point information included in the stream database recorded on the data recording medium 21 and recording the added mark points thereto.

A reading block 41, upon receiving a read control signal inputted from a controller 49, reads data corresponding to a DVR transport stream file or a stream database file from the data recording medium 21 and outputs the read data to a demodulator 42. The demodulator 42 performs demodulation, as corresponding to the modulator 19 shown in FIG. 1, on the data inputted from the reading block 41 and outputs the demodulated data to an error correction block 43. The error correction block 43 executes error correction on the data on the basis of the error correction information given by

the error correction block 18 shown in FIG. 1 and outputs the resultant DVR transport stream file or stream database file to a file system block 44.

The file system block 44 separates the DVR transport stream file inputted from the error correction block 43 into source packets and outputs them to a buffer 45. The file system block 44 also supplies the stream database inputted from the error correction block 43 to the controller 49.

The buffer 45 outputs, to a demultiplexer 46, the transport packet obtained by removing the transport packet extra header from that source packet when the arrival time stamp included in the transport packet extra header of the source packet becomes equal to the ATC supplied from a clock oscillator 48.

The demultiplexer 46 extracts the video packet and the audio packet corresponding to a user-specified program from the transport packet inputted from the buffer 45 and outputs the extracted packets to an AV decoder 47. The AV decoder 47 decodes the video packet and the audio packet supplied from the demultiplexer 46 and outputs the resultant video signal and audio signal to a subsequent stage. The clock oscillator 48 generates the ATC of 27 MHz and outputs it to the buffer 45.

The controller 49 controls a drive 51 to read a control program from a magnetic disc 52, an optical disc 53, a magneto-optical disc 54, or a semiconductor memory 55, thereby controlling each component of the reproducing apparatus 40 on the basis of the control program and the commands inputted by the user.

When a command for specifying a new mark point is inputted by the user, the controller 49 converts the position of the new mark point into mark point data (video PID, system time clock time axis ID, and PTS of image) and outputs the mark point data to the writing block 50.

The writing block 50 adds the mark point data inputted from the controller 49 to the mark point information included in the stream database recorded on the data recording medium 21 and records the mark point data thereon.

The following describes the reproduction processing by the reproducing apparatus 40 with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 24. This reproduction processing starts when the commands for specifying a reproduction program and starting the reproduction processing are inputted by the user.

In step S51, the stream database for the

reproduction program is read by the reading block 41 from the data recording medium 21, the stream database is processed by the demodulator 42 through the file system block 44, and the resultant stream database is supplied to the controller 49. In step S52, reproduction start position data (video PID, STC time axis ID, and PTS of image) are inputted by the user into the controller 49. It should be noted that, for the position from which reproduction starts, the mark point in the mark point information included in the stream database may be specified.

In step S53, the controller 49 compares the reproduction start position inputted in step S52 with the stream database obtained in step S51 to detect the entry point nearest to the reproduction start position. By use of the packet number written in the detected entry point, the controller computes the read start address of the DVR transport stream.

In step S54, the reading block 41, under the control by the controller 49, starts reading the DVR transport stream from the read start address on the data recording medium 21 determined in step S53. The DVR transport stream is processed by the demodulator 42 through the demultiplexer 46 and the resultant video

packet and audio packet are inputted in the AV decoder 47.

In step S55, the AV decoder 47 decodes the video packet and audio packet supplied from the demultiplexer 46 and outputs the resultant video signal and audio signal to a monitor (not shown) for example.

In step S56, the controller 49 determines whether a change in the reproduction position for random access reproduction for example has been specified by the user. If the change is found specified, the controller returns to step S53 to determine the read start address, repeating the processing mentioned above.

If no change is found specified in step S56, the controller goes to step S57. In step S57, the controller 49 determines whether the end of reproduction has been specified by the user. If the end of reproduction is found not specified, the controller returns to step S54 to repeat the processing mentioned above. Then, if the end of reproduction is found specified, this reproduction processing comes to an end.

Next, the reproduction by use of mark point information will be described. Assume, for example, as shown in FIGS. 25A through 25C, that a DVR transport stream file and its database, EntryPointMap, ClipMark, and STC_Info, are recorded.

First, cued reproduction processing of a scene indicated by mark point will be described with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 26.

In step S71, EntryPointMap, STC_Info, Program_Info, and ClipMark, which are the database of the DVR transport stream file, are read. In step S72, the specification of the mark point for a reproduction start point by the user is accepted. For example, a thumbnail image indicative of the start point of the scene is displayed on a menu screen, in which the mark point related to the thumbnail image selected by the user is accepted.

In step S73, the PTS and STC_sequence_id of the mark point specified by the user are obtained. In step S74, the source packet number at which the STC time axis corresponding to STC_sequence_id is obtained from STC_Info. In step S75, the source packet number which is temporally before the PTS of the mark point and has the nearest entry point is obtained from the packet number at which STC time axis starts and the PTS of the mark point.

In step S76, transport stream data are read from the source packet number obtained in step S75 and supplied to the AV decoder 47. In step S77, the AV decoder 47 starts displaying the transport stream data beginning with the picture of the PTS of the mark point.

The following specifically describes the processing for displaying a picture matching PTS(a0) of CM start point (CMstart) shown in FIGS. 25A through 25C for example. It is assumed that the CM start point be on the STC time axis with STC_sequence_id being id0 and the source packet number at which the STC time axis starts be smaller than A. If $PTS(A) > PTS(a0)$ for example, packet number A is obtained in step S75. Then, in step S76 the transport stream starting with packet number A is supplied to the AV decoder 47 to be decoded, upon which display starts with the picture corresponding to PTS(a0) in step S77.

Next, CM skip reproduction processing by use of mark point information will be described with reference to the flowchart shown in FIG. 27.

In step S81, EntryPointMap, STC_Info, Program_Info, and ClipMark, which are the database of the DVR transport stream file, are read. In step S82, the specification of CM skip reproduction by the user is accepted. In step S83, the PTS and STC_sequence_id of each piece of mark information with mark type being CM start point or CM end point (CMend) are obtained.

In step S84, the source packet number at which the STC time axis corresponding to STC_sequence_id of CM

start point is obtained. In step S85, the decoding of the transport stream starts.

In step S86, it is determined whether the currently displayed image is one corresponding to the PTS of the CM start point. If the decision is no, then, in step S87, the current image is displayed. The processing goes back to step S85 to repeat the subsequent operations mentioned above. If the decision is yes in step S86, then, in step S88, the decoding and the displaying of the image are stopped.

In step S89, from the packet number at which the STC time axis of CM end point and the PTS of the CM end point, the source packet number having an entry point which is nearest to and temporally before the PTS of the end point is obtained. In step S90, the data of the transport stream are read from the source packet number obtained in step S89 and supplied to the AV decoder 47. In step S91, the AV decoder 47 restarts the display beginning with the picture corresponding to the PTS of the CM end point.

The following specifically describes a CM skip operation shown in FIGS. 25A through 25C for example. It is assumed that CM start point and CM end point be on the STC time axis with the same STC_sequence_id being id0 and

the source packet number at which the STC time axis starts be smaller than A.

If the display time becomes PTS(a0) in step S86 when the transport stream is being decoded, the decoding and the displaying are stopped. Then, if $PTS(C) < PTS(c0)$ for example, decoding starts with a stream which begins with the data having packet number C in step S90. In step S91, the displaying restarts with a picture corresponding to PTS(c0).

The following describes a method of using ProgramInfo at the time of reproduction. It is effective for the reproduction system to know the information about the program content included in the stream, namely the PID of the packet transmitting a video or audio elementary stream and a video or audio component type (for example, HDTV video stream or MPEG2 AAC audio stream) before the DVR transport stream is reproduced.

These pieces of information are helpful in creating a menu screen for describing the contents of the recorded transport stream to the user or initializing the AV decoder 47 and the demultiplexer 46 before decoding the stream.

The program content may change as shown in FIG. 18 halfway in the transport stream to be recorded. For

example, it is possible that the PID of the packet for transmitting a video stream changes or the contents of the video stream change from SDTV to HDTV. ProgramInfo stores an address (a source packet number) at which program contents change halfway in the stream. When a reproduction start time is specified, the reproduction system checks the source packet number at which the reading starts and can know the program content stored at that address from ProgramInfo in advance.

As described, in the reproduction processing, reproduction starts with the entry point (I picture position) described in the entry point map included in the stream database, thereby controlling the reading positions easily and quickly.

In the present embodiment, the configurations of the recording apparatus 10 and the reproducing apparatus 40 are shown separately. It will be apparent that the recording apparatus 10 and the reproducing apparatus 40 may be combined into one apparatus.

It should be noted that the above-mentioned sequence of processing operations may be executed by not only hardware but also software. To execute the above-mentioned sequence of processing operations by software, the programs constituting that software are installed

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from a recording medium into a computer built in dedicated hardware or into a general-purpose personal computer capable of executing various functions.

This recording medium is constituted by not only a package medium made up of the magnetic disc 24 (including a floppy disc), the optical disc 25 (including a CD-ROM (Compact Disc Read Only Memory) and a DVD (Digital Versatile Disc), the magneto-optical disc 26 (including an MD (Mini Disc), or the semiconductor memory 27 shown in FIG. 1 which is distributed to provide programs to users separately from a computer, but also a computer-incorporated ROM hard disc in which programs are stored for provision to users.

It should be noted that, in the present specification, the steps for describing the program to be recorded in a recording medium include not only the processing operations to be executed sequentially in time but also the processing operations to be executed in parallel or discretely.

It should also be noted that, in the present specification, a system denotes an apparatus in its entirety consisting of two or more devices.

As described and according to the transport stream recording apparatus and method and the program stored in

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the first program recording medium associated with the invention, discontinuity point information is recorded on a data recording medium as a database corresponding to a transport stream. This novel constitution allows the recording of transport streams so that prompt random access reproduction in response to user commands is realized.

In addition, according to the transport stream recording apparatus and method and the program stored in the second program recording medium associated with the invention, the reading of transport packets is started by use of a database corresponding to a transport stream. This novel constitution also realizes prompt random access reproduction in response to user commands.

While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described using specific terms, such description is for illustrative purposes only, and it is to be understood that changes and variations may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A transport stream recording apparatus for recording a transport stream on a recording medium, comprising:

a discontinuity point information generator for generating discontinuity point information in accordance with said discontinuity point; and

2. A transport stream recording apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said detector comprising:

a time information generator for generating system
time information on the basis of said reference time
information; and

3. A transport stream recording apparatus

according to claim 2, wherein said discontinuity point information generator generates, as said discontinuity information, time axis identification information for identifying a time axis and positional information corresponding to a start time of said time axis.

4. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said discontinuity point information generator generates, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a start time of said time axis and said system time information corresponding to an end time of said time axis.

5. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said discontinuity point information generator generates, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a display start time on said time axis and said system time information corresponding to a display end time on said time axis.

6. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said reference time information is a program clock reference and said system time information is a system time clock.

7. A transport stream recording apparatus

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according to claim 1, wherein said detector comprising:

a second extracting block for extracting, on the basis of program information arranged in said transport stream, a point at which program content changes.

8. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said discontinuity point information generator generates positional information corresponding to said point at which said program content changes.

9. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said discontinuity point information generator generates at least one of a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program map, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program clock reference, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a video stream, coded information of the video stream, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting audio stream, and coded information of the audio stream.

10. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a first analyzer for extracting, from said transport packets, a transport packet including data that may provide a reproduction start position; and

an entry point map generator for generating an entry point map for identifying said transport packet including said data;

wherein said recording unit records, along with said discontinuity point information, said entry point map on said recording medium as said database corresponding to said transport stream.

11. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first analyzer extracts a transport packet including I picture data as said transport packet including said data that may provide said reproduction start position and

said entry point map generator generates said entry point map by use of positional information of said transport packet including said I picture data and time information of said I picture.

12. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

a second analyzer for extracting a transport packet including data that provide a mark point from said transport packets; and

a mark point information generator for generating mark point information for identifying said transport packet including said data that provide said mark point;

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wherein said recording unit records said mark point information on said recording medium as said database corresponding to said transport stream along with said discontinuity point information.

13. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said mark point information generator generates said mark point information by use of time information of said mark point and time axis identification information for identifying a time axis to which said time information belongs.

14. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said time information is a presentation time stamp.

15. A transport stream recording method for recording a transport stream on a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

detecting, from a transport packet constituting said transport stream, a discontinuity point in said transport stream;

generating discontinuity point information in accordance with said discontinuity point; and

recording said transport packet onto said recording medium along with said discontinuity point information.

16. A transport stream recording method according

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to claim 15, wherein said detecting step comprising the steps of:

extracting reference time information located in said transport stream;

generating system time information on the basis of said reference time information; and

detecting occurrence of discontinuity in said reference time information.

17. A transport stream recording method according to claim 16, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating, as said discontinuity information, time axis identification information for identifying a time axis and positional information corresponding to a start time of said time axis.

18. A transport stream recording method according to claim 17, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of generating, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a start time of said time axis and said system time information corresponding to an end time of said time axis.

19. A transport stream recording method according to 17, wherein said discontinuity point information

generating step comprising the step of:

generating, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a display start time on said time axis and said system time information corresponding to a display end time on said time axis.

20. A transport stream recording method according to claim 16, wherein said reference time information is a program clock reference and said system time information is a system time clock.

21. A transport stream recording method according to claim 15, wherein said detecting step comprising the step of:

extracting, on the basis of program information arranged in said transport stream, a point at which program content changes.

22. A transport stream recording method according to claim 21, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating positional information corresponding to said point at which said program content changes.

23. A transport stream recording method according to claim 22, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating at least one of a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program map, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program clock reference, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a video stream, coded information of the video stream, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting audio stream, and coded information of the audio stream.

24. A transport stream recording method according to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

extracting, from said transport packets, a transport packet including data that may provide a reproduction start position; and

generating an entry point map for identifying said transport packet including said data;

wherein said recording step records, along with said discontinuity point information, said entry point map on said recording medium as said database corresponding to said transport stream.

25. A transport stream recording method according to claim 24, wherein said extracting step comprising the steps of:

extracting a transport packet including I picture data as said transport packet including said data that

may provide said reproduction start position and
generating said entry point map by use of
positional information of said transport packet including
said I picture data and time information of said I
picture.

26. A transport stream recording method according
to claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

extracting a transport packet including data that
provide a mark point from said transport packets; and

generating mark point information for identifying
said transport packet including said data that provide
said mark point;

wherein said recording step records said mark point
information on said recording medium as said database
corresponding to said transport stream along with said
discontinuity point information.

27. A transport stream recording method according
to claim 26, wherein said mark point information
generating step comprising the step of:

generating said mark point information by use of
time information of said mark point and time axis
identification information for identifying a time axis to
which said time information belongs.

28. A transport stream recording method according

to claim 27, wherein said time information is a presentation time stamp.

29. A program recording medium recording a computer-readable program for recording an inputted transport stream on a data recording medium, said program comprising the steps of:

detecting, from a transport packet constituting said transport stream, a discontinuity point in said transport stream;

generating discontinuity point information in accordance with said discontinuity point; and

recording said transport packet onto said recording medium along with said discontinuity point information.

30. A program recording medium according to claim 29, wherein said detecting step comprising the steps of:

extracting reference time information located in said transport stream;

generating system time information on the basis of said reference time information; and

detecting occurrence of discontinuity in said reference time information.

31. A program recording medium according to claim 30, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of: generating, as

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said discontinuity information, time axis identification information for identifying a time axis and positional information corresponding to a start time of said time axis.

32. A program recording medium according to claim 31, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of generating, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a start time of said time axis and said system time information corresponding to an end time of said time axis.

33. A program recording medium according to 31, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating, as said time axis identification information, said system time information corresponding to a display start time on said time axis and said system time information corresponding to a display end time on said time axis.

34. A program recording medium according to claim 30, wherein said reference time information is a program clock reference and said system time information is a system time clock.

35. A program recording medium according to claim

29, wherein said detecting step comprising the step of:

extracting, on the basis of program information arranged in said transport stream, a point at which program content changes.

36. A program recording medium according to claim 34, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating positional information corresponding to said point at which said program content changes.

37. A program recording medium according to claim 35, wherein said discontinuity point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating at least one of a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program map, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a program clock reference, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting a video stream, coded information of the video stream, a packet identifier of a packet for transmitting audio stream, and coded information of the audio stream.

38. A program recording medium according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

extracting, from said transport packets, a transport packet including data that may provide a

reproduction start position; and

generating an entry point map for identifying said transport packet including said data;

wherein said recording step records, along with said discontinuity point information, said entry point map on said recording medium as said database corresponding to said transport stream.

39. A program recording medium according to claim 37, wherein said extracting step comprising the steps of:

extracting a transport packet including I picture data as said transport packet including said data that may provide said reproduction start position and

generating said entry point map by use of positional information of said transport packet including said I picture data and time information of said I picture.

40. A program recording medium according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

extracting a transport packet including data that provide a mark point from said transport packets; and

generating mark point information for identifying said transport packet including said data that provide said mark point;

wherein said recording step records said mark point

information on said recording medium as said database corresponding to said transport stream along with said discontinuity point information.

41. A program recording medium according to claim 40, wherein said mark point information generating step comprising the step of:

generating said mark point information by use of time information of said mark point and time axis identification information for identifying a time axis to which said time information belongs.

42. A program recording medium according to claim 41, wherein said time information is a presentation time stamp.

43. A transport stream reproducing apparatus for reproducing a transport stream recorded on a recording medium, comprising:

a reproducing unit for reproducing said transport stream from said recording medium;

a reproduction controller for executing control such that time axis identification information of said transport stream and an entry point map are reproduced from said recording medium; and

a controller for searching said time axis identification information and said entry point map for a

reproduction start position;

wherein said reproduction controller controls said reproducing unit such that said recording medium is read in accordance with said reproduction start position.

44. A transport stream reproducing method for reproducing a transport stream from a recording medium, comprising the steps of:

reproducing time axis identification information of said transport stream and an entry point map from said recording medium;

searching said time axis identification information and said entry point map for a reproduction start position; and

reading said recording medium in accordance with said reproduction start position.

45. A program recording medium recording a computer-readable program for reproducing a transport stream from a recording medium, said program comprising the steps of:

reproducing time axis identification information of said transport stream and an entry point map from said recording medium;

searching said time axis identification information and said entry point map for a reproduction start

position; and

reading said recording medium in accordance with said reproduction start position.

46. A transport stream recording apparatus comprising:

an input unit in which a transport stream is inputted;

a generator for generating reproduction management information in a unit of an interval in which a PCR_PID value in said transport stream does not change; and

a recording unit for recording said reproduction management information along with said transport stream.

47. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:

an analyzer for extracting information for identifying PCR_PID.

48. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:

an analyzer for extracting the number of video elementary streams included in said unit interval.

49. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:

an analyzer for extracting the number of audio elementary streams included in said unit interval.

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50. A transport stream recording apparatus according to 46, wherein said generator comprising:
an analyzer for extracting a packet identifier of each video stream included in said unit interval.

51. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:
an analyzer for extracting information for identifying a packet identifier of each audio stream included in said unit interval.

52. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:
an analyzer for extracting coding attribute information of each video stream included in said unit interval.

53. A transport stream recording apparatus according to claim 46, wherein said generator comprising:
an analyzer for extracting coding attribute information of each audio stream included in said unit interval.

54. A transport stream recording method comprising the steps of:

generating reproduction management information in each unit of an interval in which a PCR_PID value in an inputted transport stream does not change; and

recording said reproduction management information along with said transport stream.

55. A program recording medium recording a computer-readable program for recording a transport stream on a recording medium, said program comprising the steps of:

generating reproduction management information in each unit of an interval in which a PCR_PID value in an inputted transport stream does not change; and

recording said reproduction management information along with said transport stream.

56. A recording medium for recording a transport stream, wherein reproduction management information is recorded in each unit of an interval in which a PCR_PID value in said transport stream does not change.

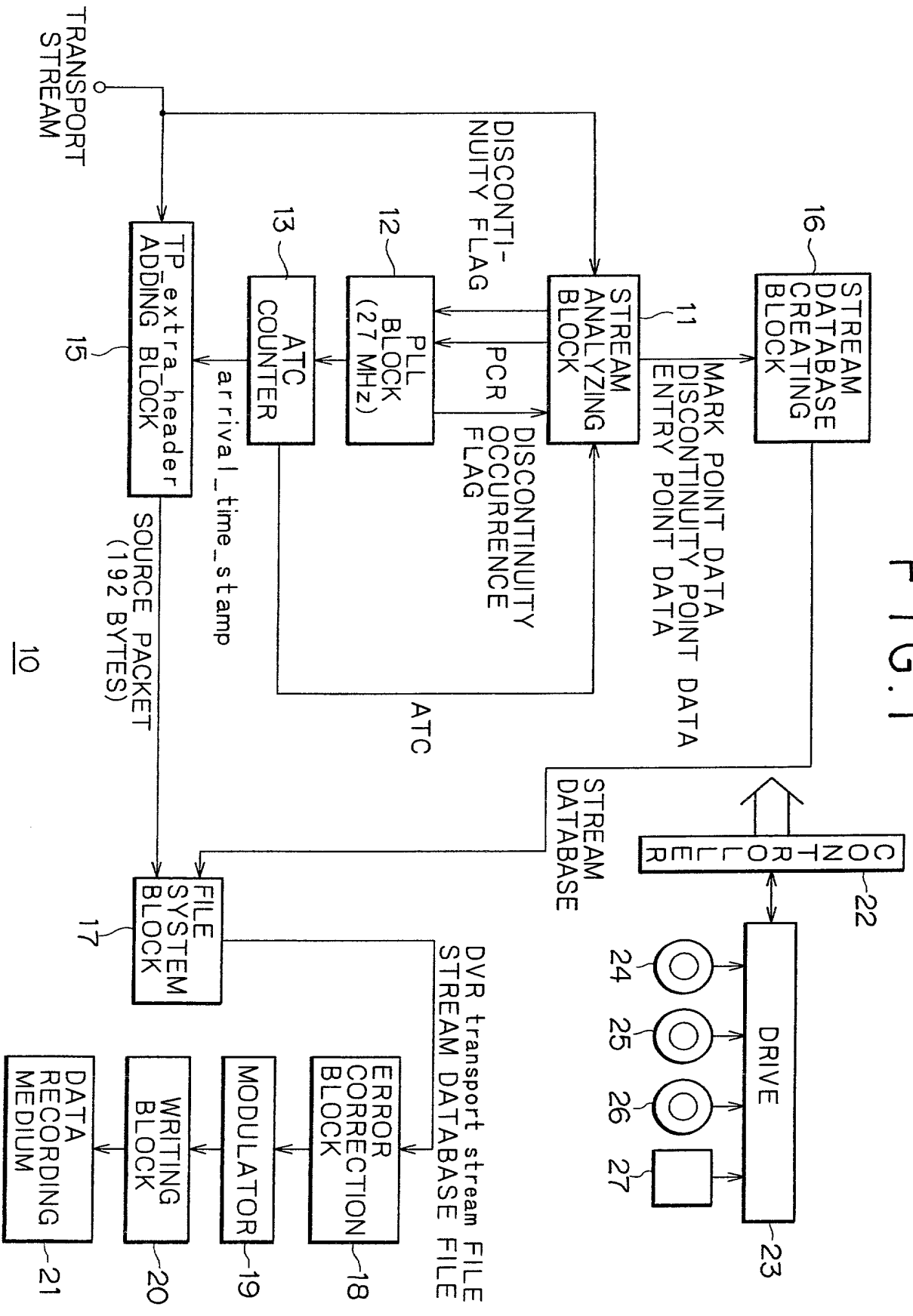
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Random access reproduction in prompt response to user commands is realized. A stream analyzing block analyzes sequentially inputted transport streams to get entry point data. Discontinuity point data are obtained in correspondence to a discontinuity occurrence flag inputted from a PLL block. Sequentially inputted transport packets are analyzed to get mark point data. A stream database creating block creates a stream database by use of the discontinuity point data and the mark point data. The stream database is recorded on a recording medium.

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FIG. 1



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TRANSPORT
PACKET

FIG. 2A

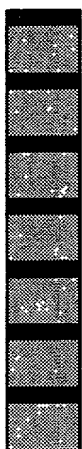


TP_extra_header

FIG. 2B



SOURCE
PACKET



Arrival
time
clock



FIG. 2C



ADDRESS



FIG. 3

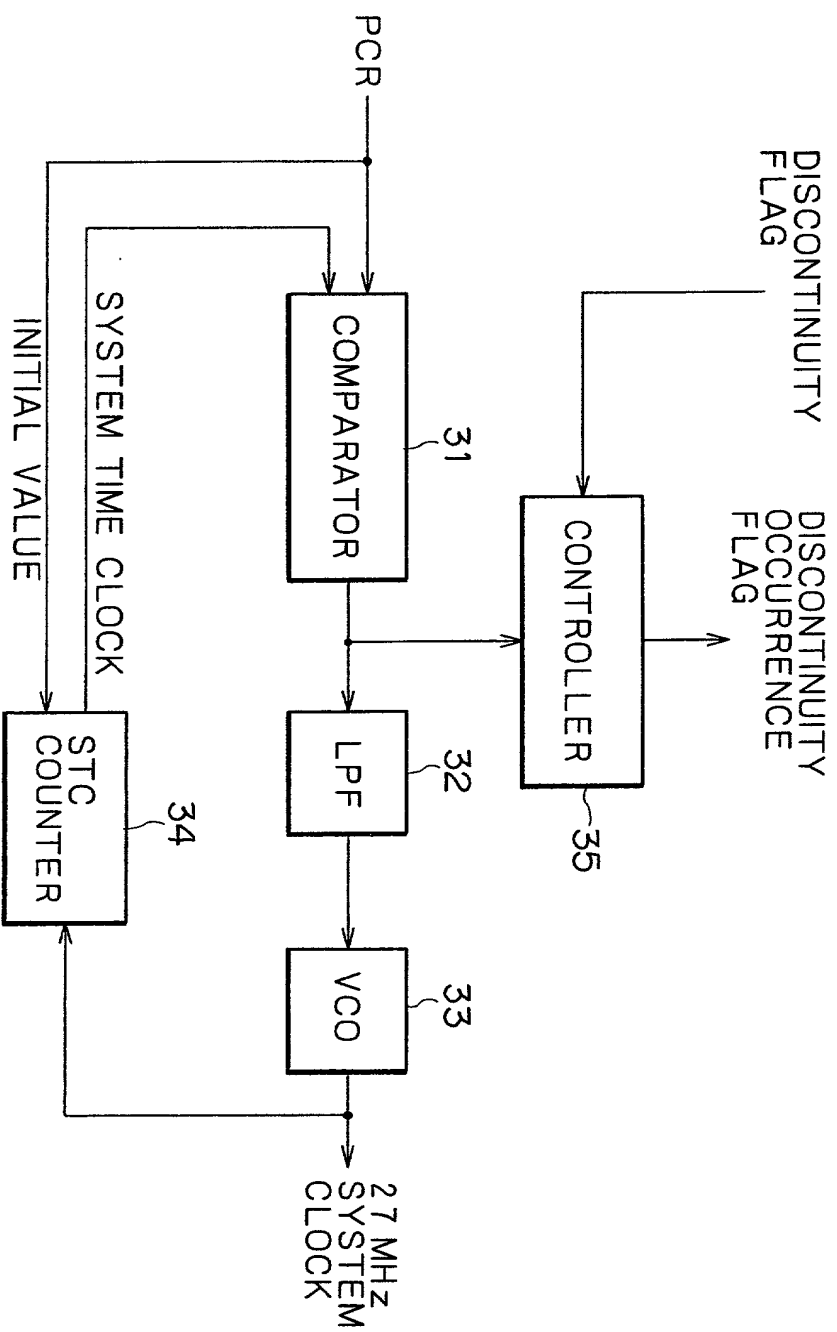


FIG. 4

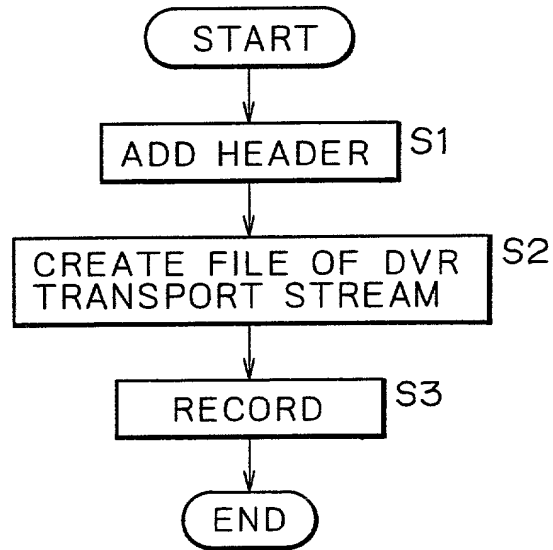
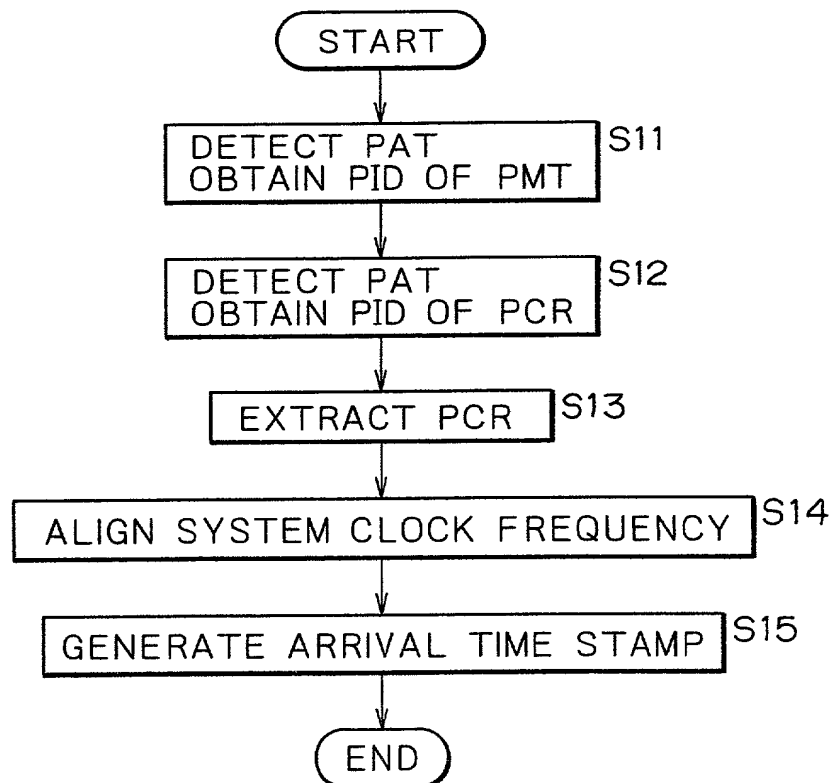
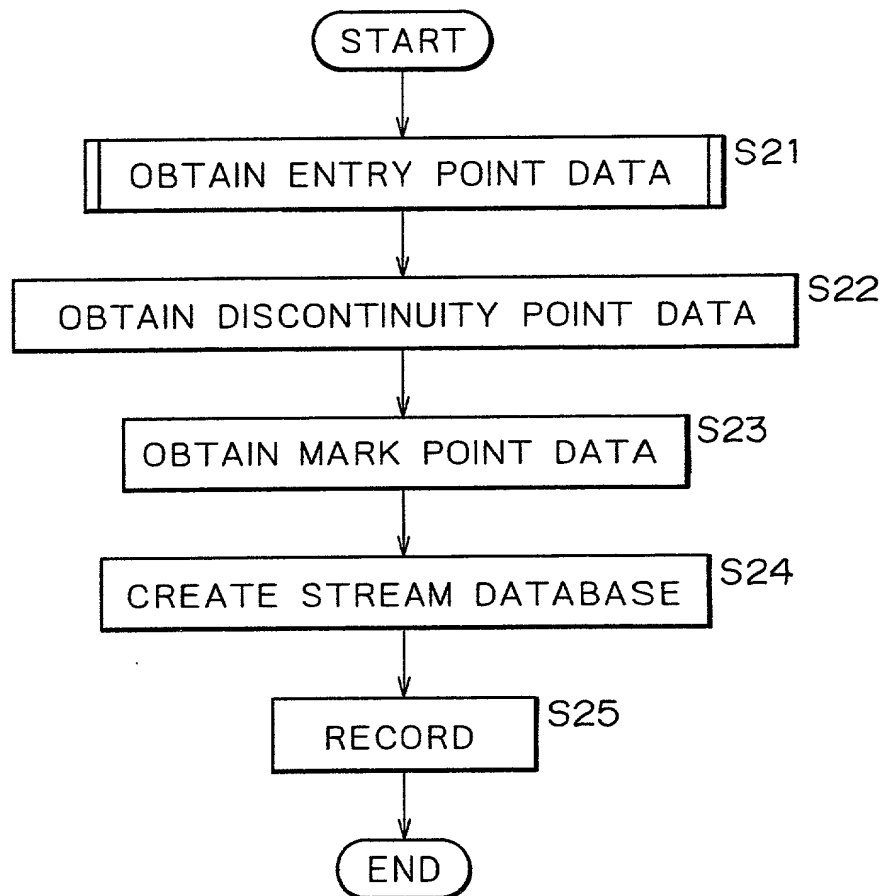


FIG. 5



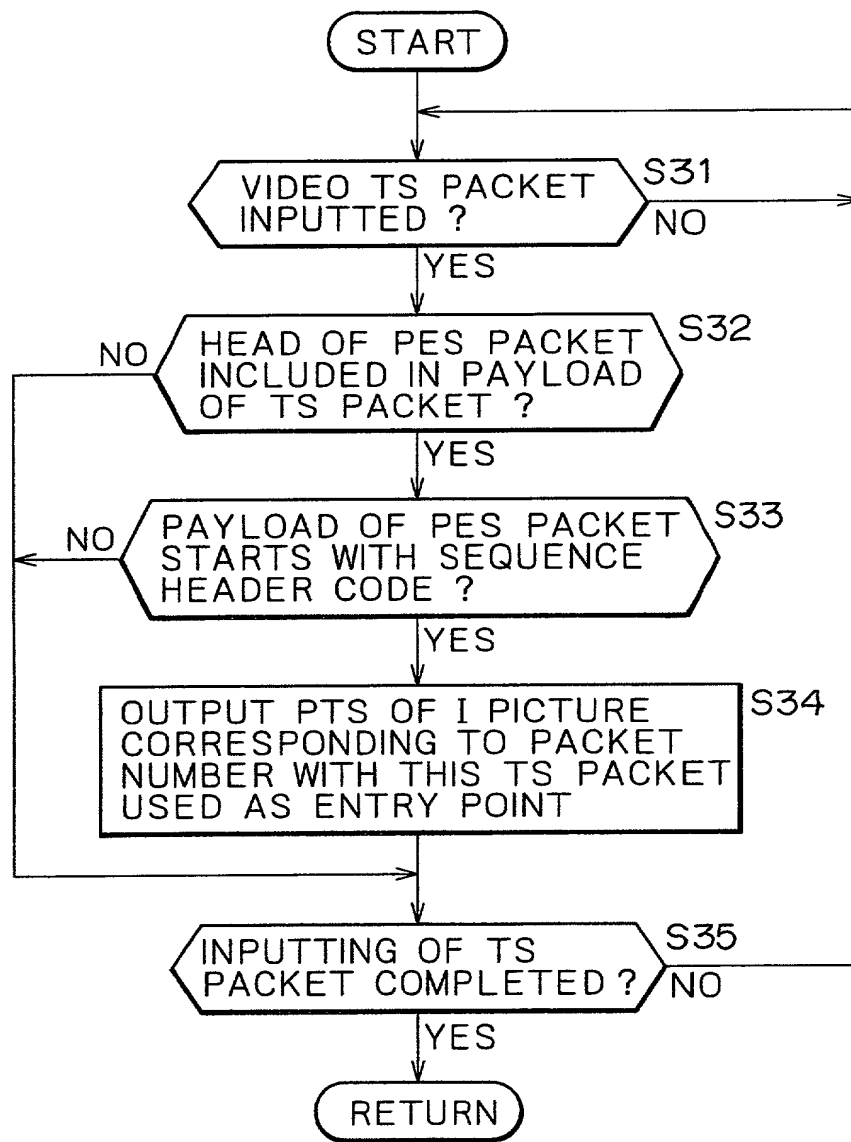
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FIG. 6



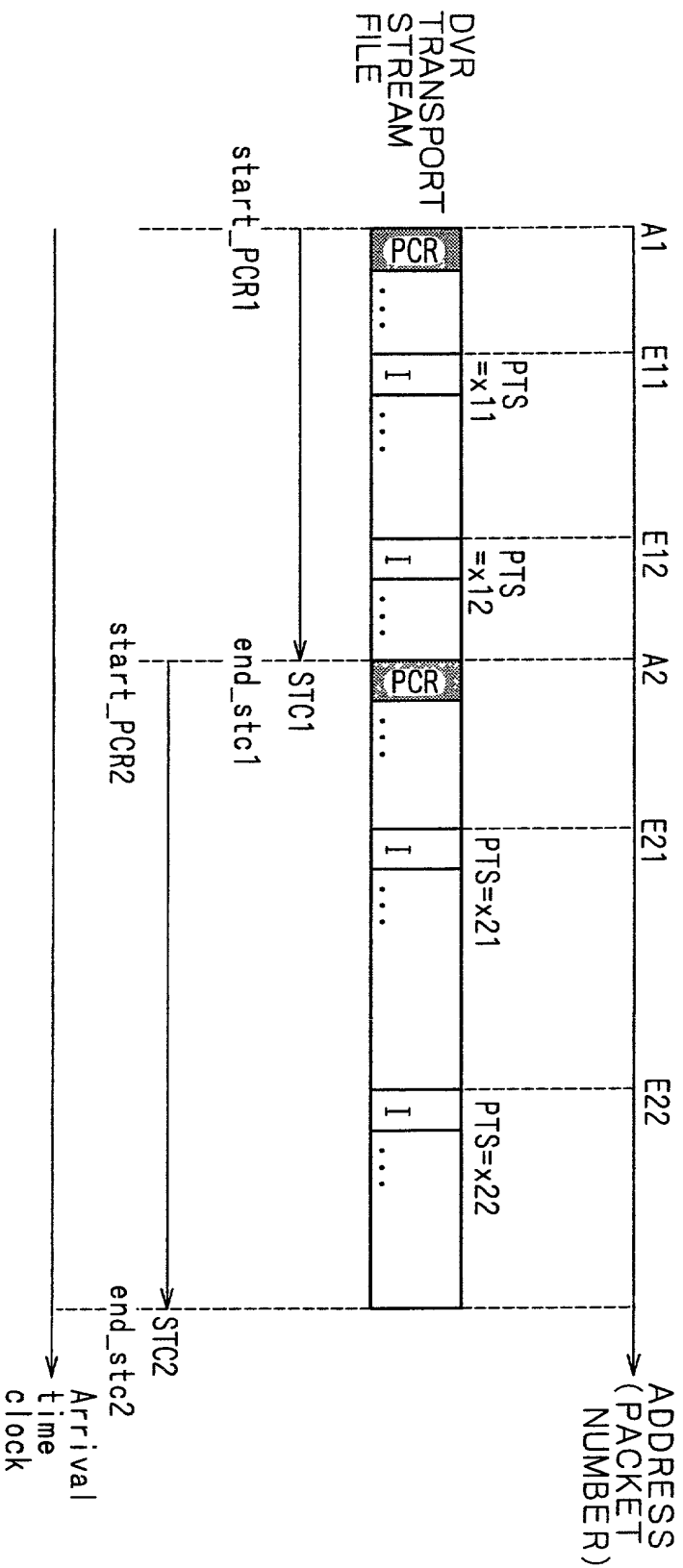
002260" 2E4B9950

FIG. 7



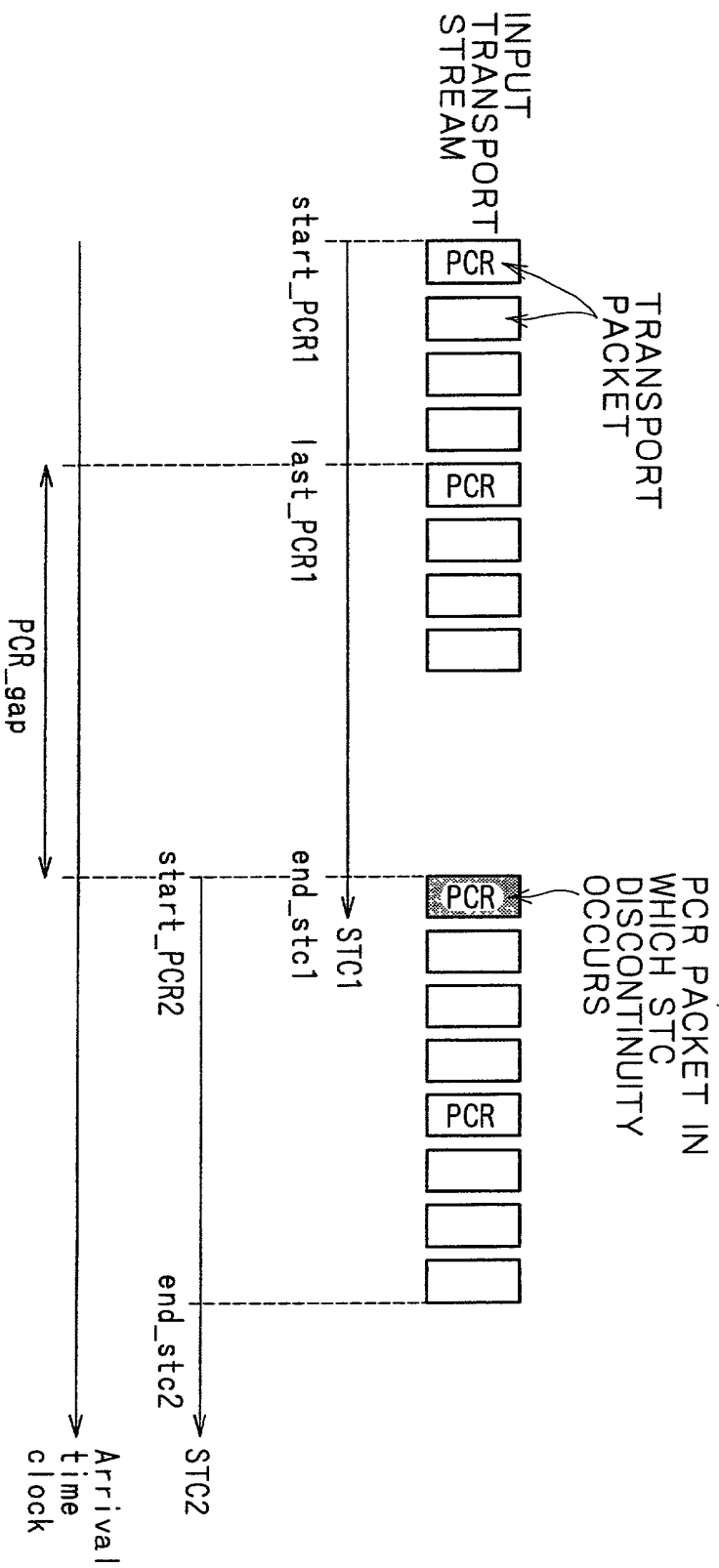
002260" 22429950

FIG. 8



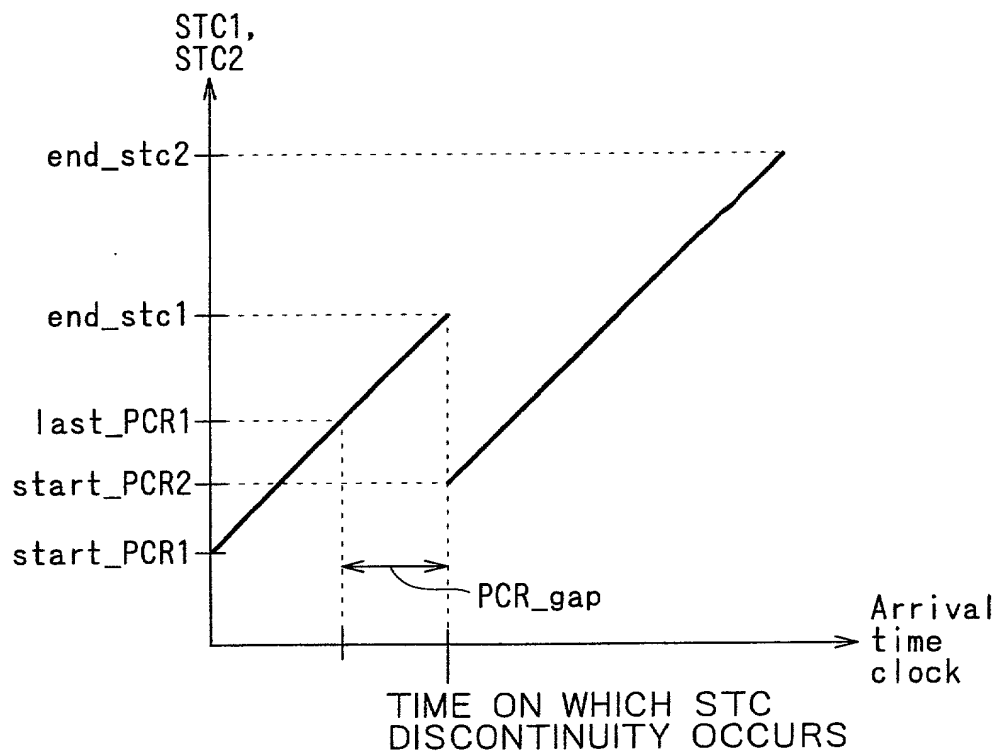
DVR
TRANSPORT
STREAM
FILE

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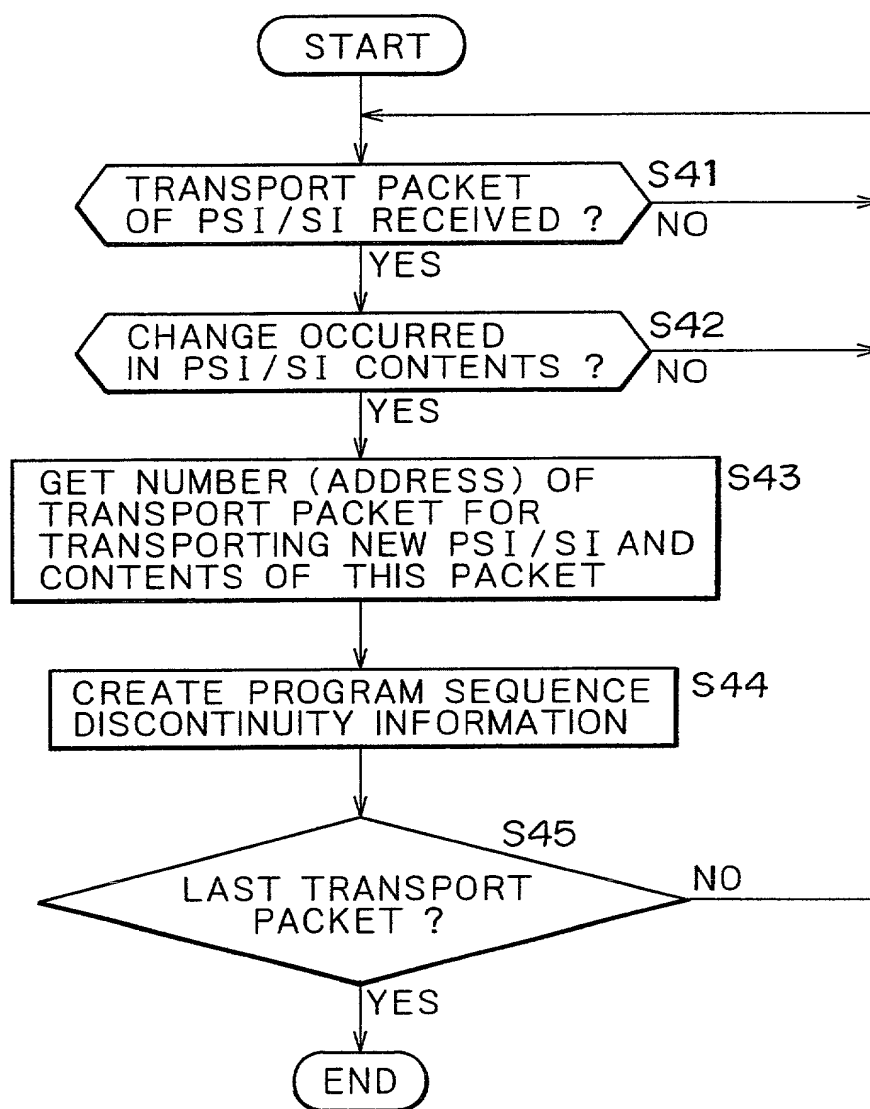
Species	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397</
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FIG.10



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FIG. 11



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FIG.12

video_PID	
offset_source_packet_number	
PTS OF ENTRY POINT (PTS_EP_start)	ADDRESS OF ENTRY POINT (RSPN_EP_start)
x 1 1	E 1 1
x 1 2	E 1 2
x 2 1	E 2 1
x 2 2	E 2 2

ENTRY POINT MAP

FIG.13

STC TIME AXIS ID (STC_sequence_id)	PCR_PID	start_PCR_value	end_STC_value	RSPN_STC_start
# 1	X	start_PCR 1	end_stc 1	A 1
# 2	Y	start_PCR 2	end_stc 2	A 2

STC TIME AXIS INFORMATION

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FIG.14

Syntax	No. of bits
STC_Info() {	
length	3 2
num_of_STC_sequence	8
for(i=0 ; i<num_of_STC_sequence ; i++) {	
STC_sequence_id	1 6
PCR_PID	1 6
RSPN_STC_start	3 2
reserved	3 1
start_PCR_value	3 3
reserved	3 1
end_stc_value	3 3
}	
}	

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FIG.15

Syntax	No. of bits
STC_Info() {	
version_number	8 * 4
Length	3 2
if (length !=0) {	
num_of_STC_sequence	8
offset_STC_sequence_id	8
for (STC_sequence_id=offset_STC_sequence_id; STC_sequence_id < (num_of_STC_sequence + offset_STC_sequence_id) ; STC_sequence_id++) {	
RSPN_STC_start	3 2
start_PTS	6 4
end_PTS	6 4
}	
}	
}	

FIG.16

Syntax	No of bits
ProgramInfo() {	3 2
length	1 6
number_of_PSI_SI_change	
for (i=0 ; i<number_of_PSI_SI_change ; i++) {	
PSI_SI_type	8
if (PSI_SI_type==PAT) {	
start_PAT_address	3 2
}	
else if (PSI_SI_type==PMT) {	
program_map_PID	1 6
start_PMT_address	3 2
program_number	1 6
PCR_PID	1 6
number_of_videos	8
number_of_audios	8
for (k=0 ; k<number_of_videos ; k++) {	
video_PID	1 6
VideoCodingInfo()	
}	
for (k=0 ; k<number_of_audios ; k++) {	
audio_PID	1 6
audioCodingInfo()	
}	
}	
else if (PSI_SI_type==SIT) {	
start_SIT_address	3 2
}	
}	
}	

FIG.17

Syntax	Na of bits
ProgramInfo() {	
version_number	8 * 4
Length	3 2
if (length != 0) {	
Reserved	8
Number_of_program_sequence	8
for (i=0 ; i<number_of_program_sequence ; i++) {	
RSPN_program_sequence_start	3 2
reserved	3 2
program_map_PID	1 6
PCR_PID	1 6
number_of_videos	8
number_of_audios	8
for (k=0 ; k<number_of_videos ; k++) {	
video_stream_PID	1 6
VideoCodingInfo()	
}	
for (k=0 ; k<number_of_audios ; k++) {	
audio_stream_PID	1 6
AudioCodingInfo()	
}	
}	
}	
}	

ProgramInfo – Syntax

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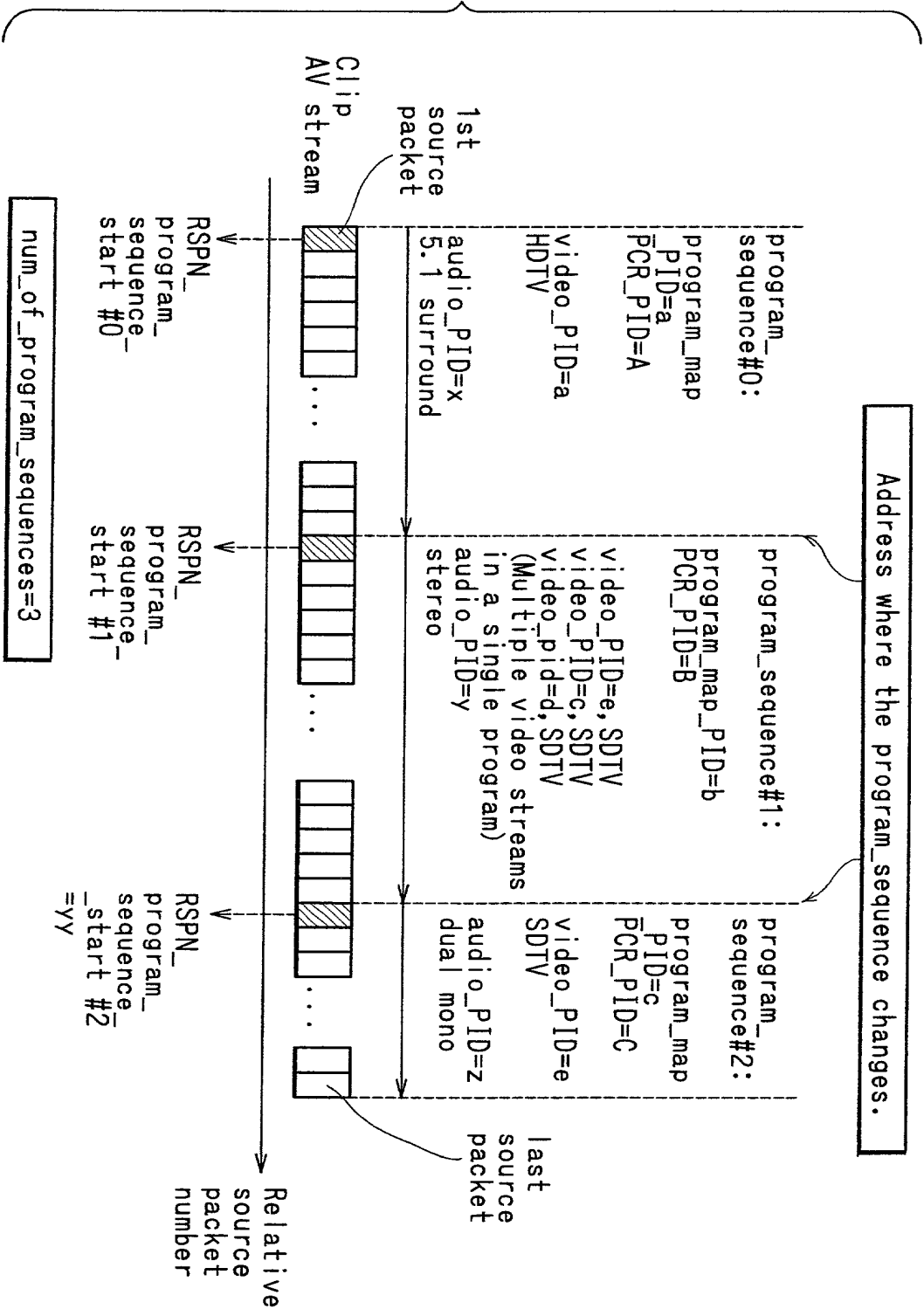


FIG.19

Syntax	No. of bits
EntryPointMap() {	
length	3 2
offset_source_packet_number	3 2
number_of_video_streams	1 6
for (i=0 ; i<number_of_video_streams ; i++) {	
reserved	3
video_PID	1 3
number_of_entry_points	3 2
for (j=0 ; j<number_of_entry_point ; j++) {	
PTS_EP_start	3 2
RSPN_EP_start	3 2
}	
}	
}	

FIG.20

Syntax	No. of bits
ClipMark() {	
version_number	8 * 4
Length	3 2
number_of_Clip_marks	1 6
for (i=0 ; i<number_of_Clip_marks ; i++) {	
Reserved	8
Mark_type	8
Mark_time_stamp	3 2
STC_sequence_id	8
Reserved	2 4
}	
}	

Mark – SYNTAX

FIG. 21

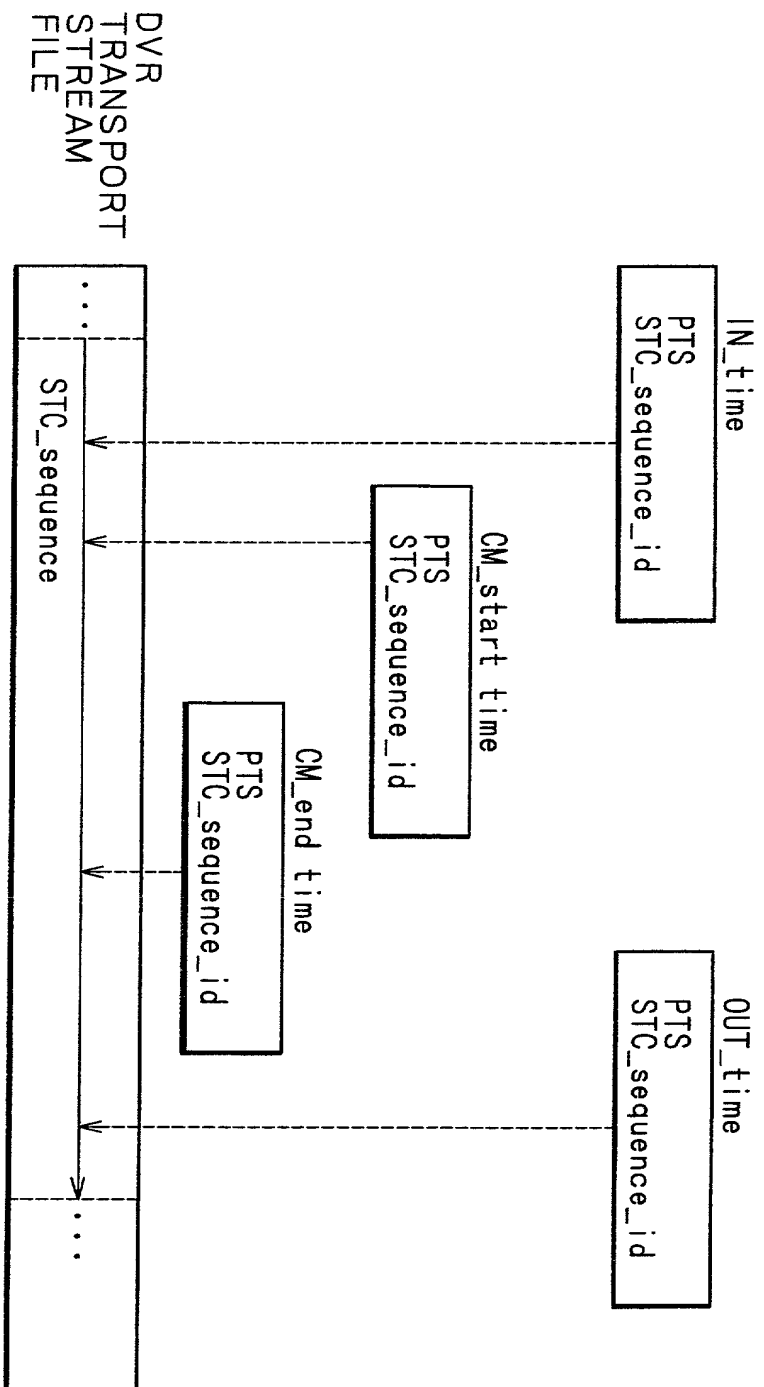
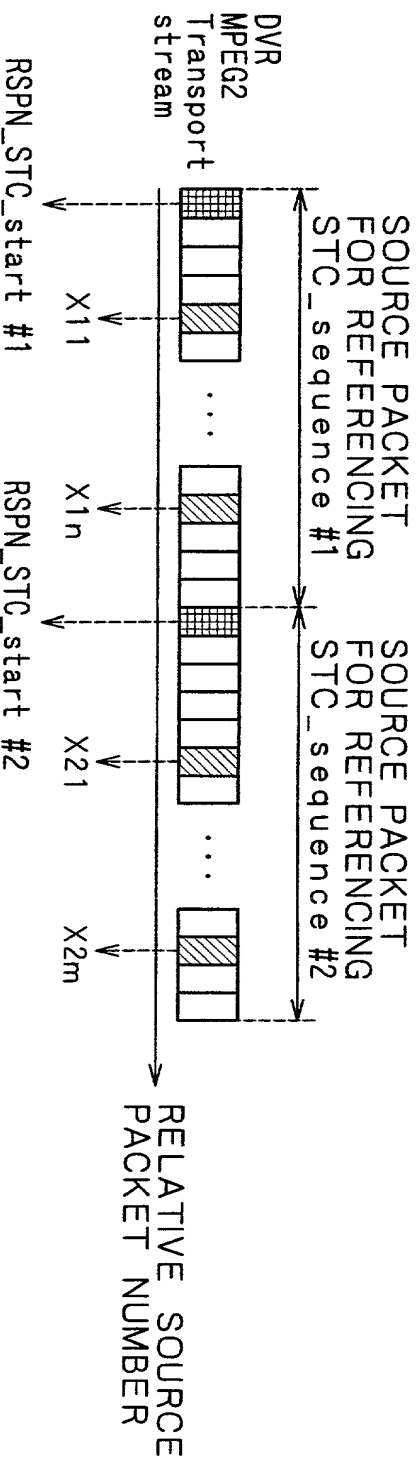




FIG. 22



-  : SOURCE PACKET INCLUDING BYTE 1 OF SEQUENCE HEADER OF VIDEO STREAM REFERENCED BY video_PID=x
-  : SOURCE PACKET TO BE REFERENCED BY RSPN_STC_start STORED IN STC_Info

EntryPointMap
video_PID=x

PTS_EP start	RSPN_EP start
pts(x11)	X11
...	...
pts(x1n)	X1n
pts(x21)	X21
...	...
pts(x2m)	X2m

THESE DATA BELONG
TO STC_sequence #1
→ BOUNDARY
THESE DATA BELONG
TO STC_sequence #2

RSPN_STC_start #2 < X21

FIG. 23

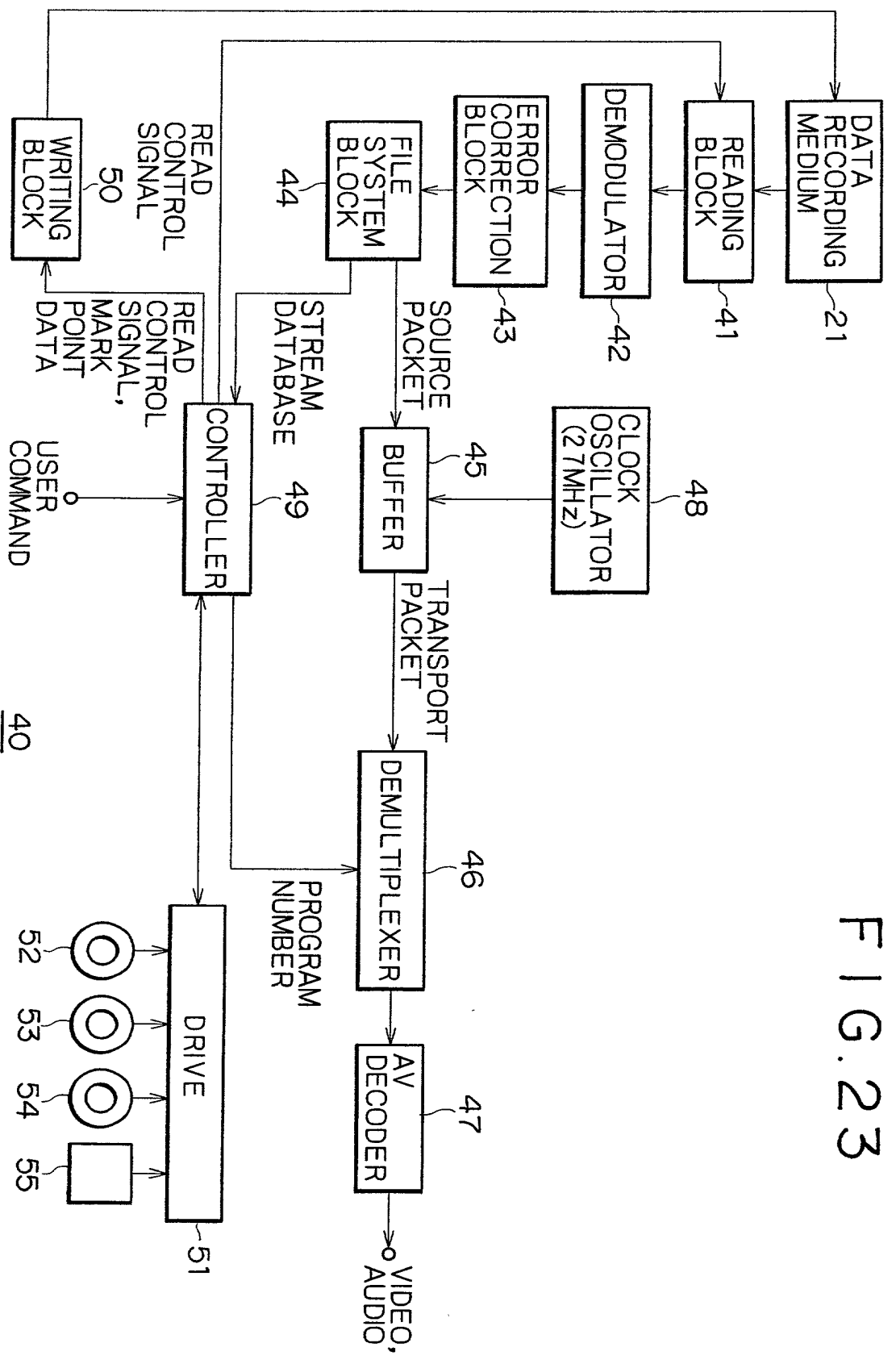
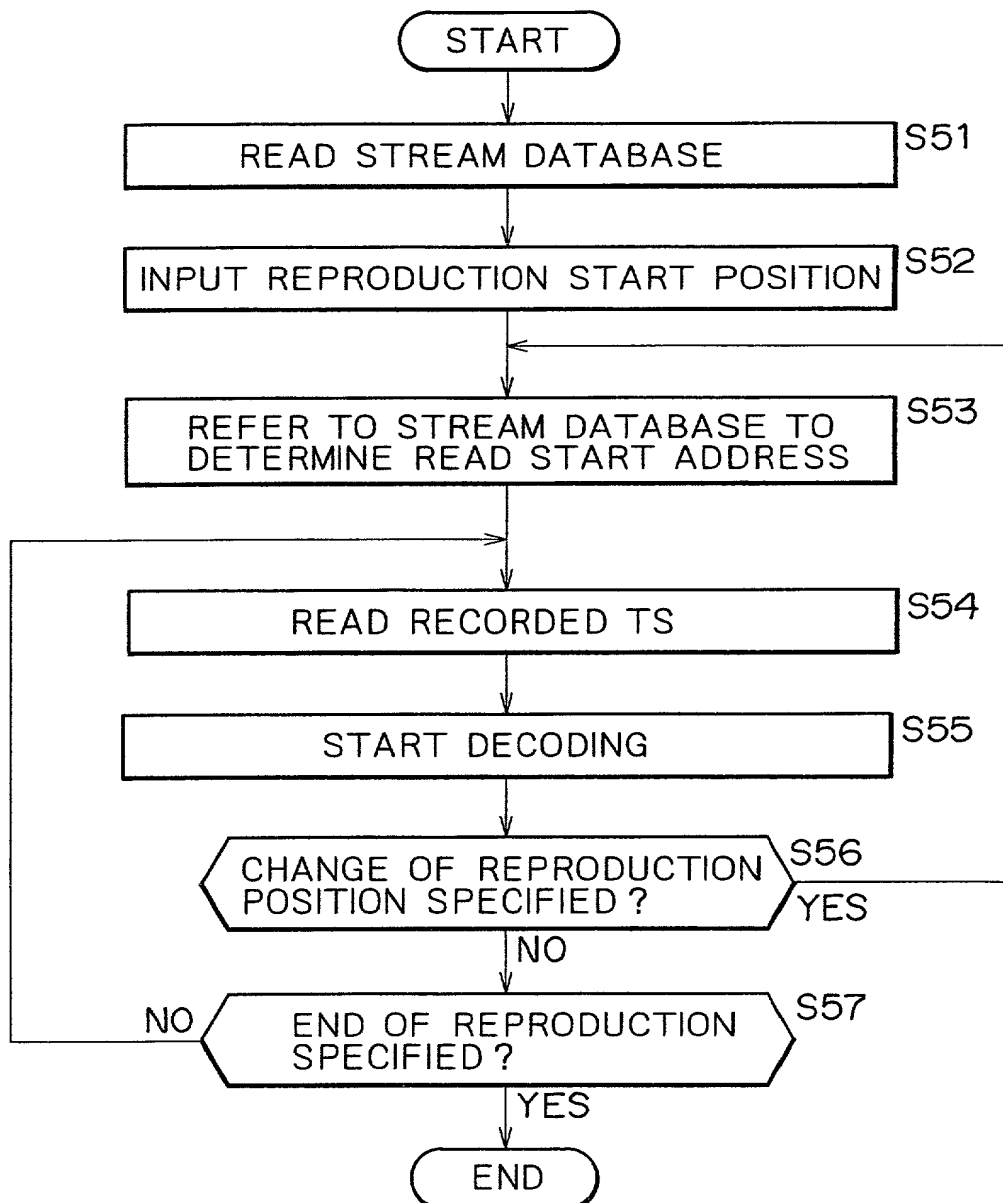


FIG. 24



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FIG. 25A

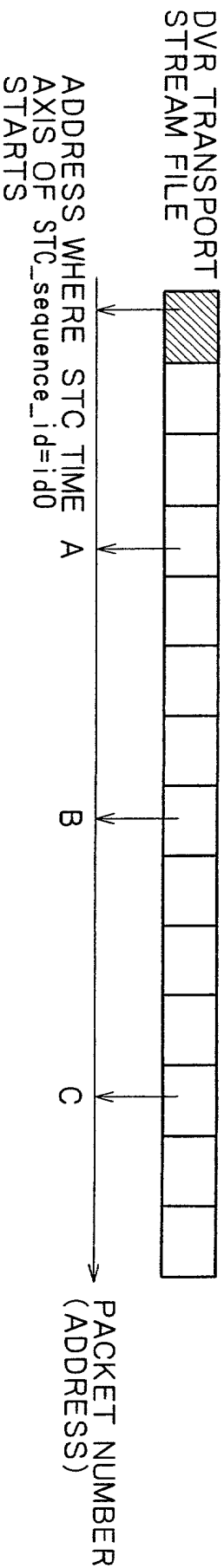


FIG. 25B

FIG. 25C

EntryPointMap

RSPN_EP_start	PTS_EP_start
A	PTS(A)
B	PTS(B)
C	PTS(C)
...	...

ClipMark

Mark_type	Mark_Time_stamp	STC_sequence_id
CMstart	PTS(a0)	id0
CM end	PTS(c0)	id0

FIG. 26

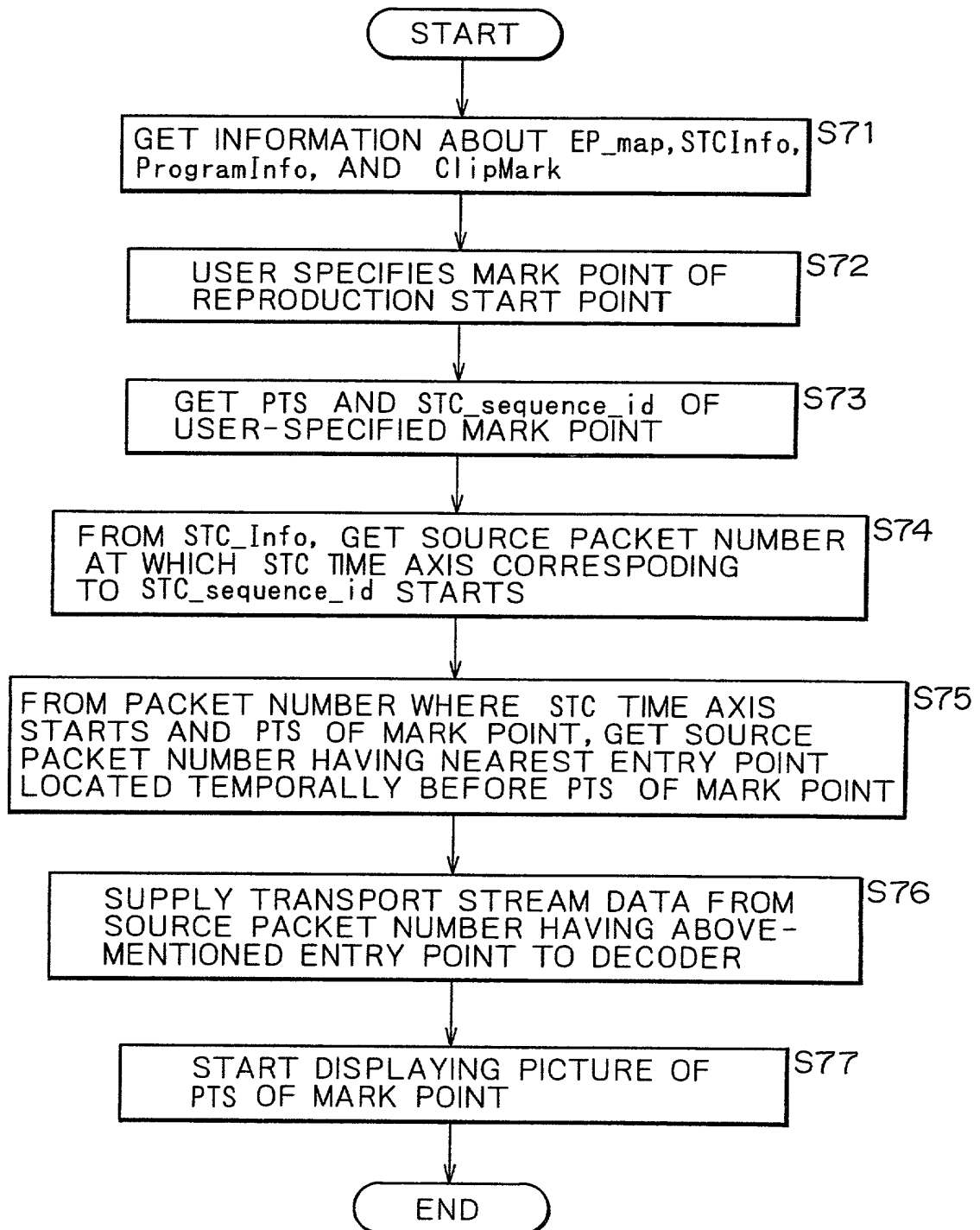
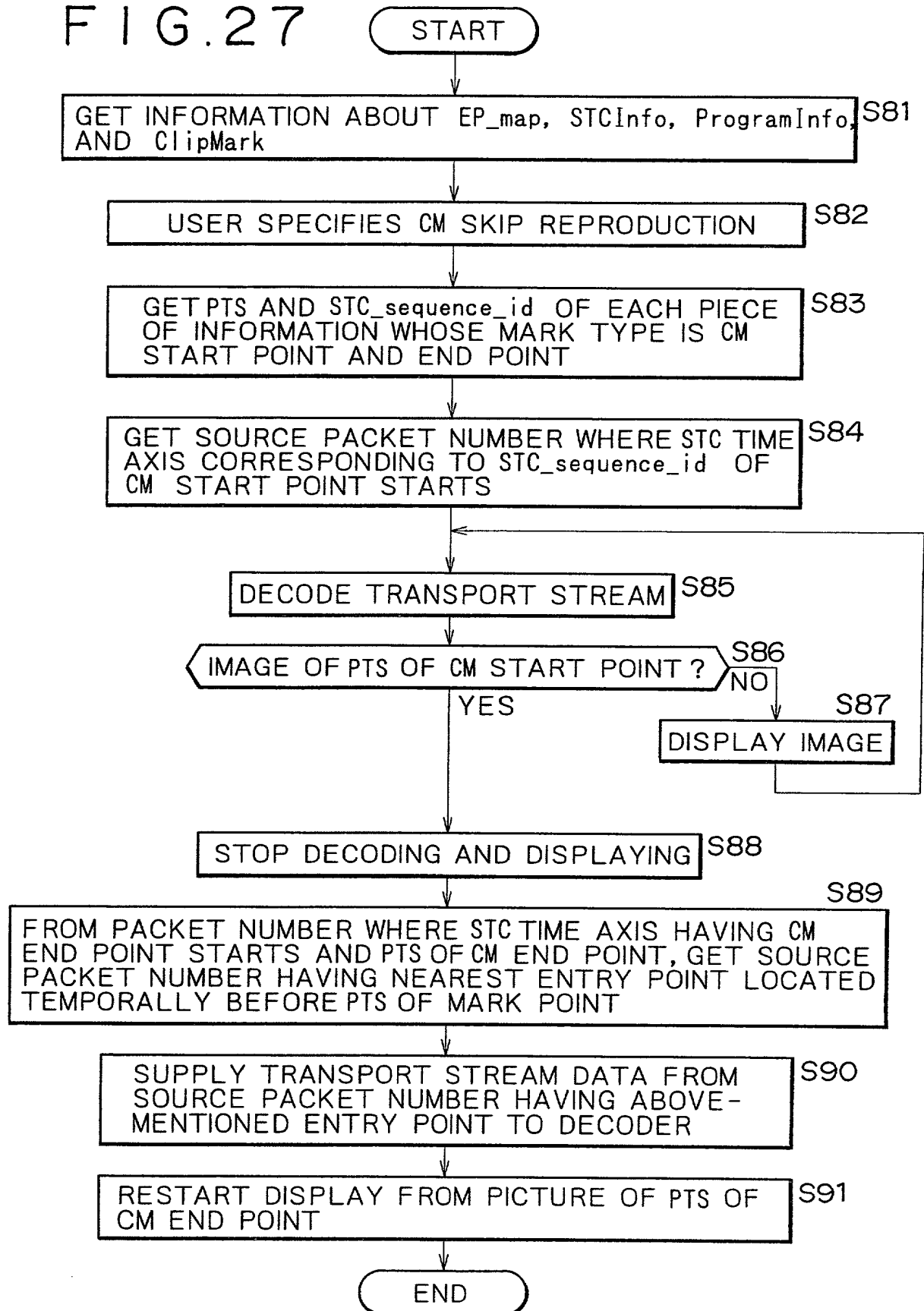


FIG. 27



SONY-U0150

BY EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL254113394US

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。	As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:
私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。	My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.
下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。	I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one named is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled. TRANSPORT STREAM RECORDING APPARATUS AND METHOD, TRANSPORT STREAM REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND PROGRAM RECORDING MEDIUM
上記発明の明細書（下記の欄でx印がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、 <input type="checkbox"/> 月 日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を _____ とし、 （該当する場合） _____ に訂正されました。	the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked: <input type="checkbox"/> was filed on _____ as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable).
私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。	I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.
私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されたとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。	I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.
私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づき国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。	I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.
Prior Foreign Application(s) 外国での先行出願 P11-275837 (Number) (番号)	Priority Not Claimed 優先権主張なし 29 September 1999 (Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)
Japan (Country) (国名)	

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

(Number) (番号)		(Country) (国名)		(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	
私は、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基いて下記の米 国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。		I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.			
(Application No.) (出願番号)		(Filing Date) (出願日)		(Application No.) (出願番号)	
(Filing Date) (出願日)		(Filing Date) (出願日)			
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(Application No.) (出願番号)		(Filing Date) (出願日)		(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)	
(Application No.) (出願番号)		(Filing Date) (出願日)		(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)	
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Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

委任状： 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。（弁理士、または代理人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと）

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